



MALAWI

# MECHANISM EXPERIMENTS

Existing and proposed mechanical experiments in BRACC

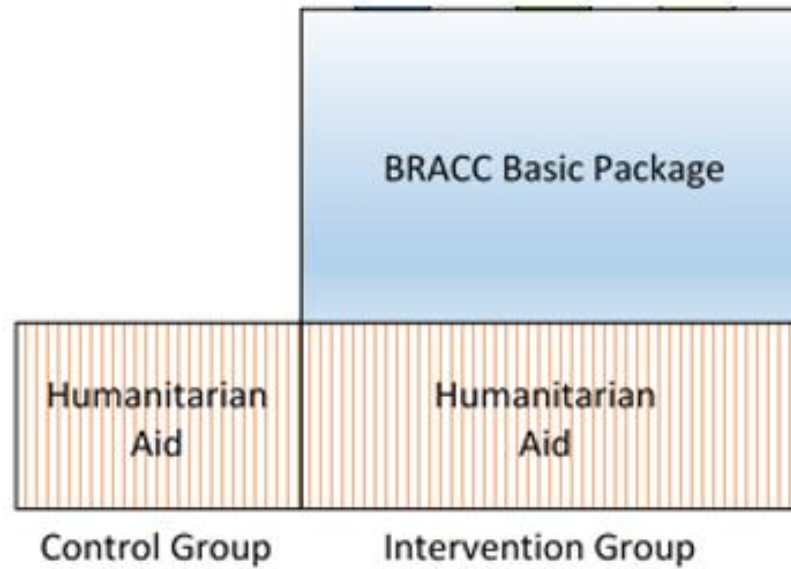
Jan Duchoslav  
Malawi Strategy Support Program  
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Lilongwe | 12 February 2020

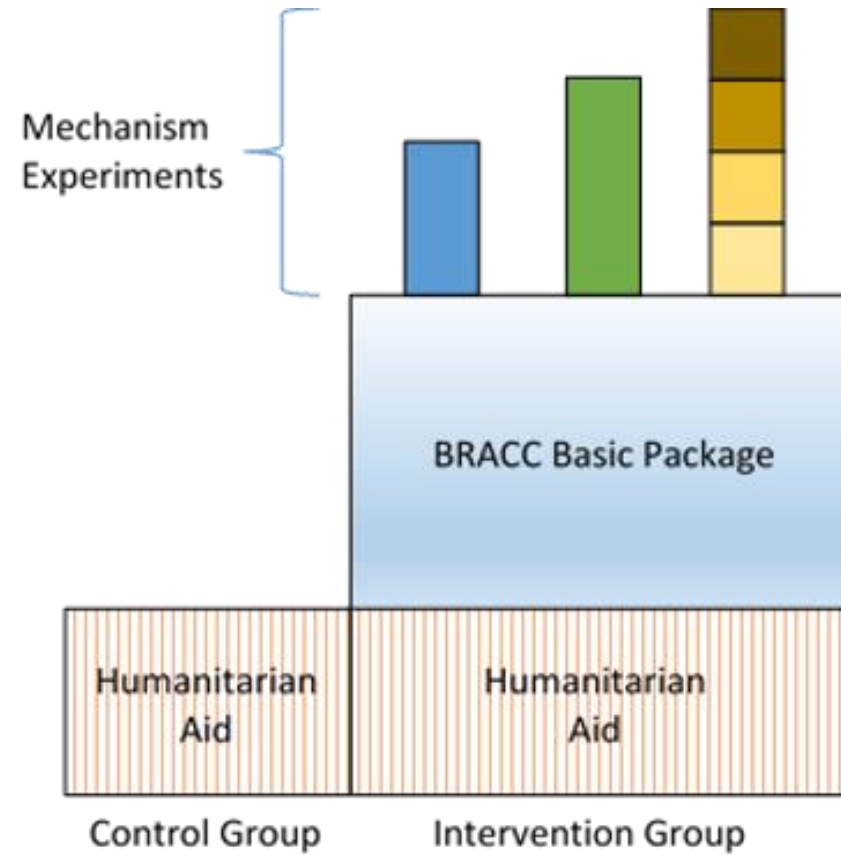
# Components of BRACC IE

- WHAT? Was there an impact? How big was it?
  - Randomized Control Trial
- HOW? How was the impact achieved?
  - Qualitative investigations
    - Ask people why they behave in a certain way
  - Mechanism experiments
    - Manipulate aspects of an intervention to verify/quantify particular mechanisms in the theory of change

# Mechanism experiments in BRACC



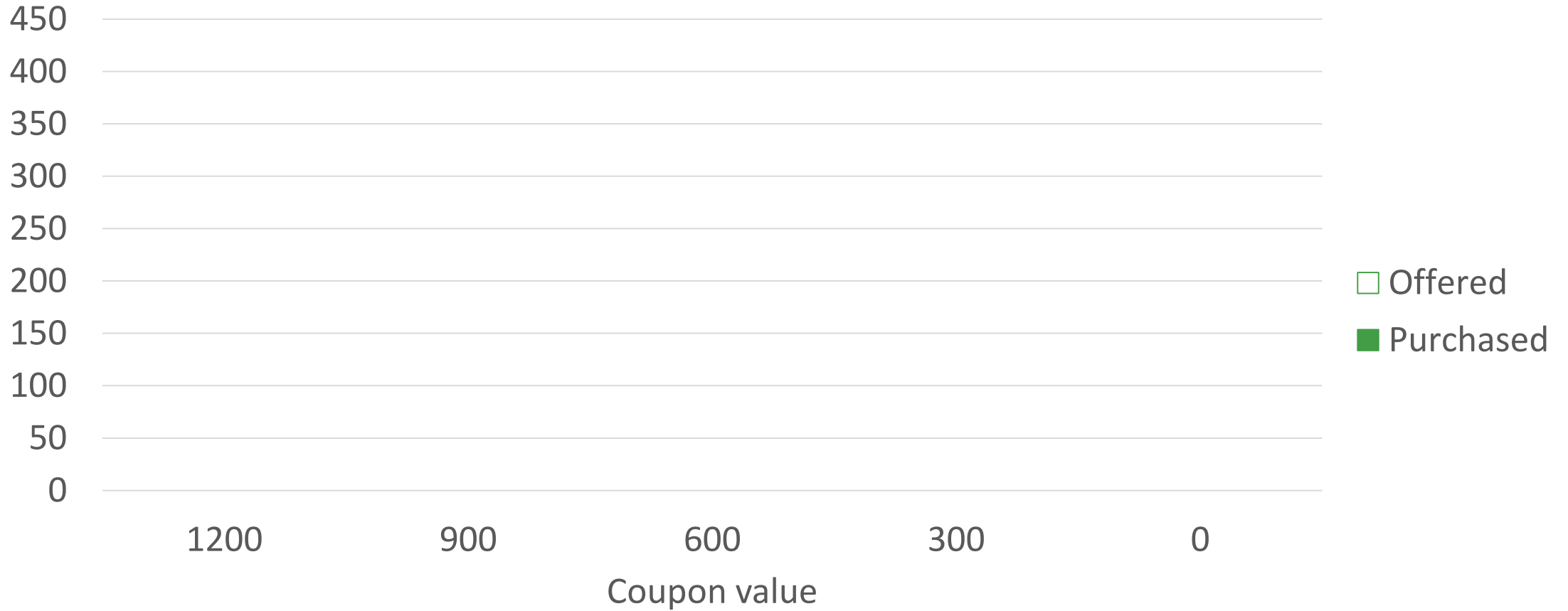
# Mechanism experiments in BRACC



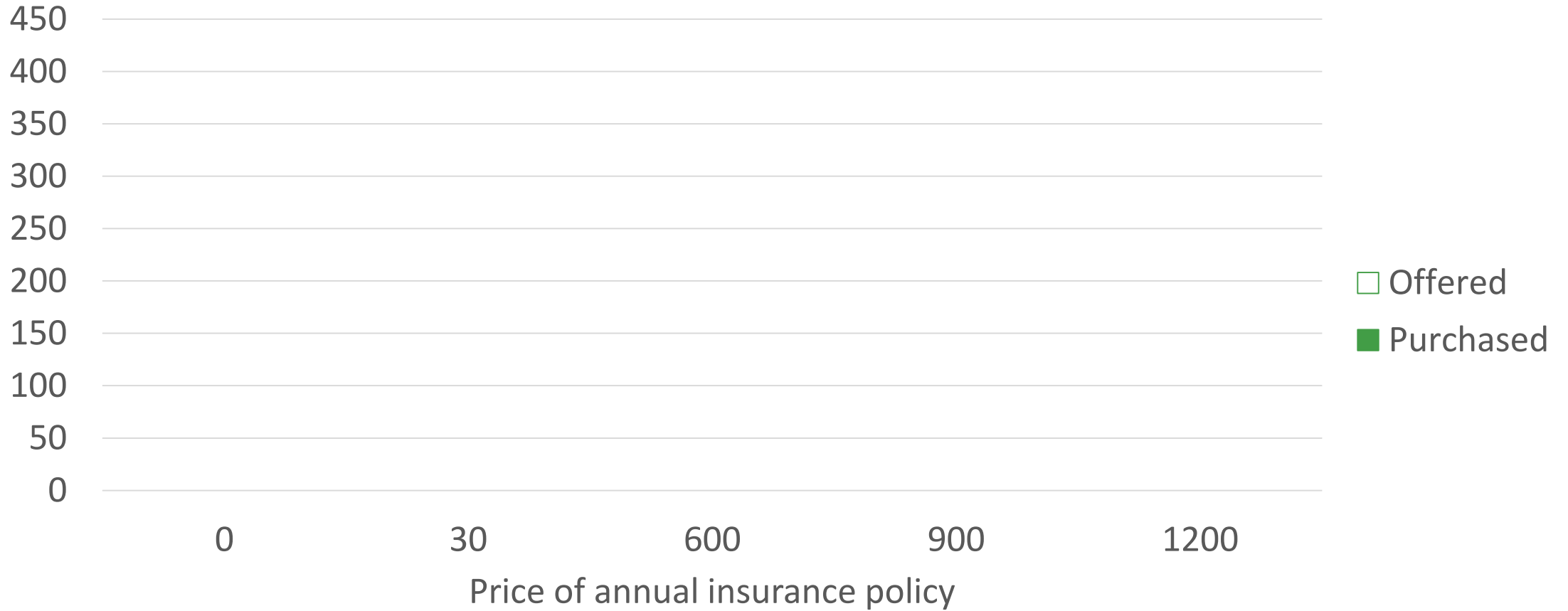
# Mechanism experiments in BRACC

- In place
  - Testing the demand for funeral and health insurance
- Proposed
  - Testing the demand for weather index insurance
  - Does predictability matter for humanitarian assistance?

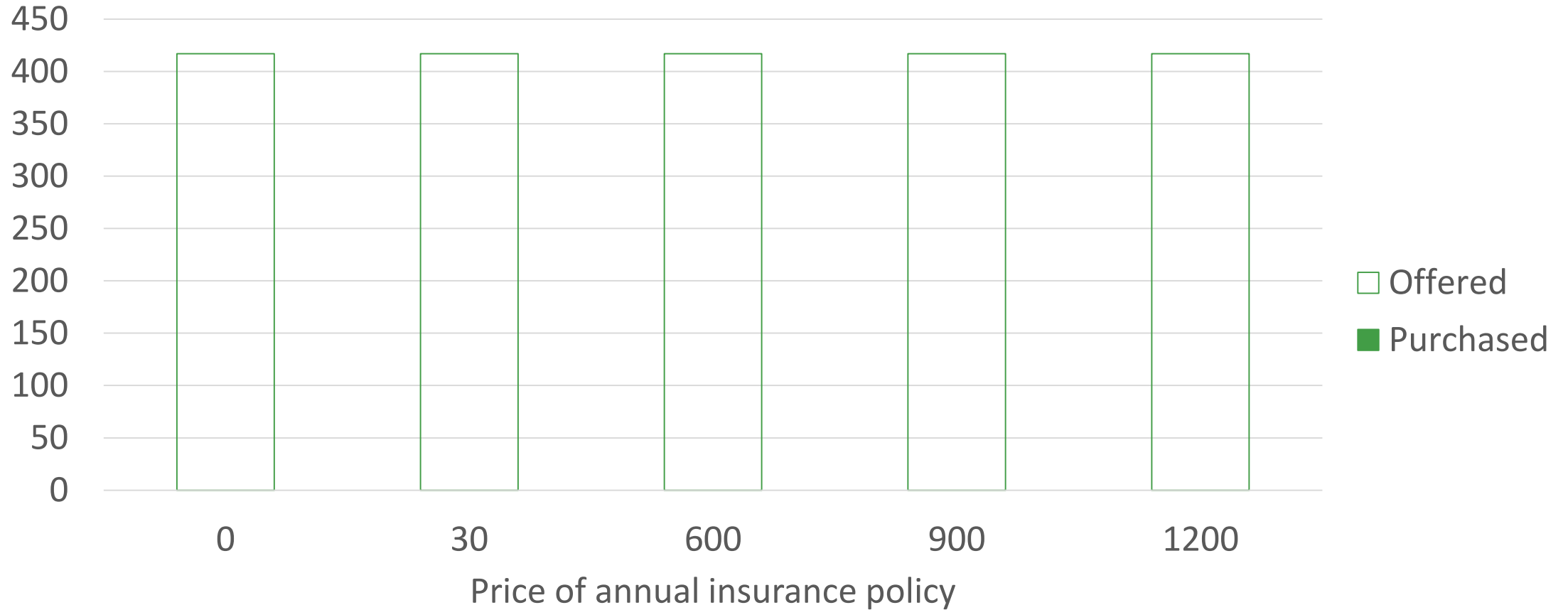
# Demand for health and funeral insurance



# Demand for health and funeral insurance

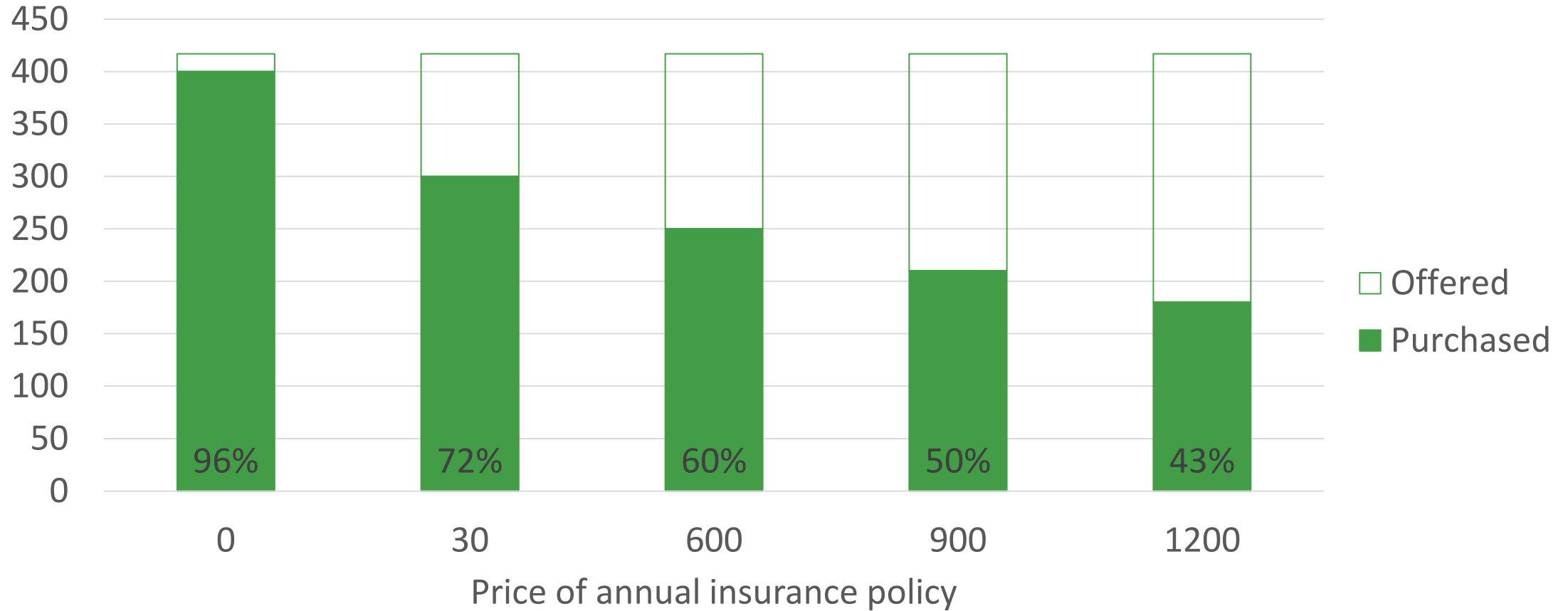


# Demand for health and funeral insurance

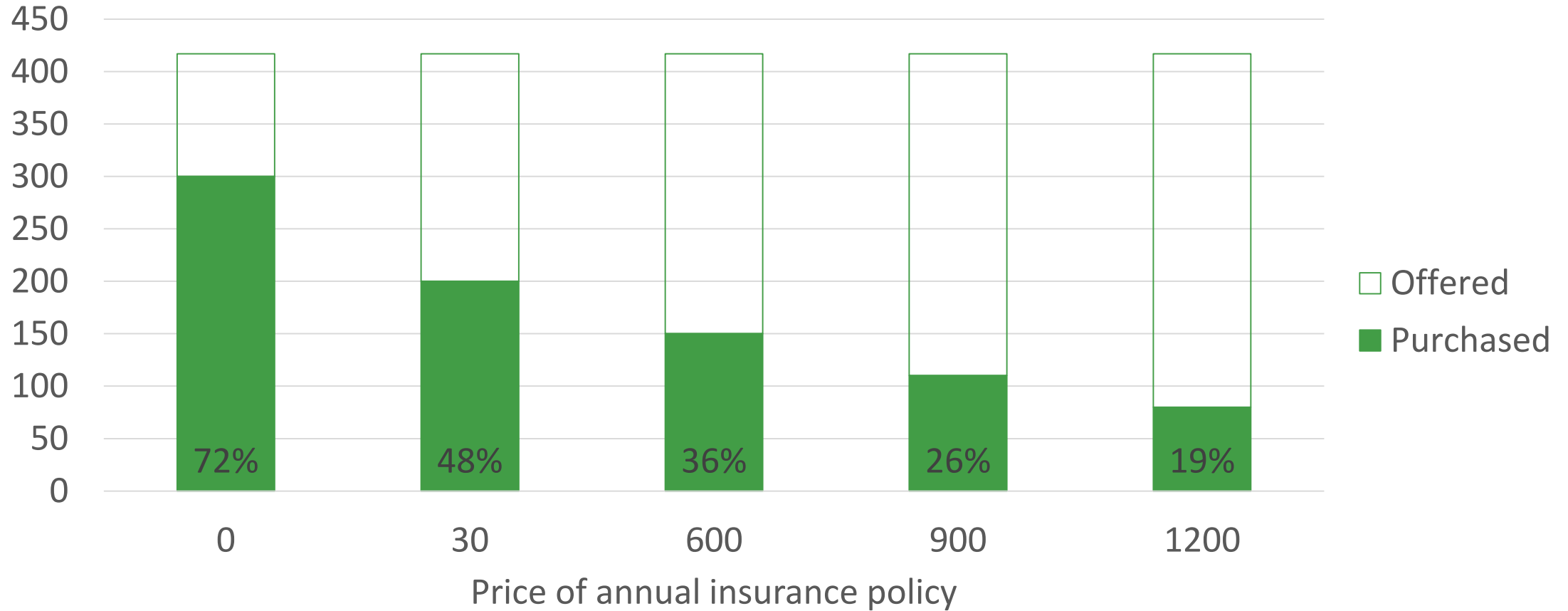




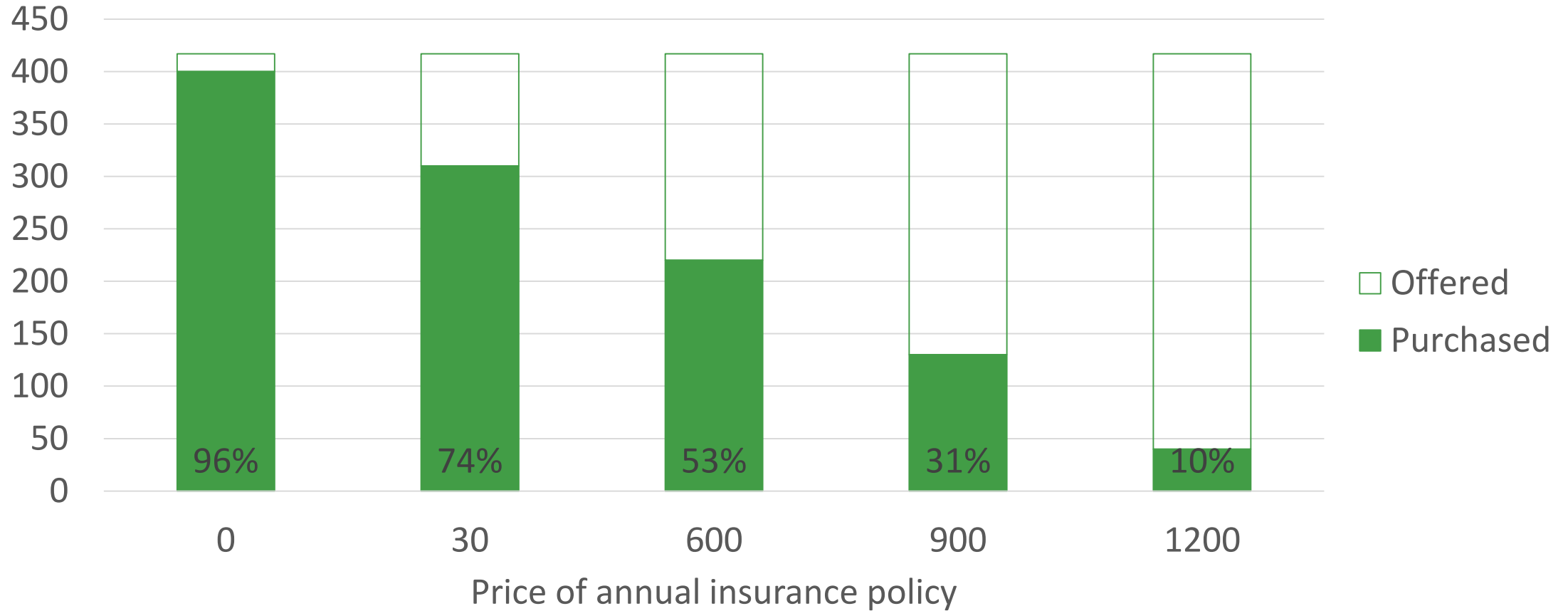
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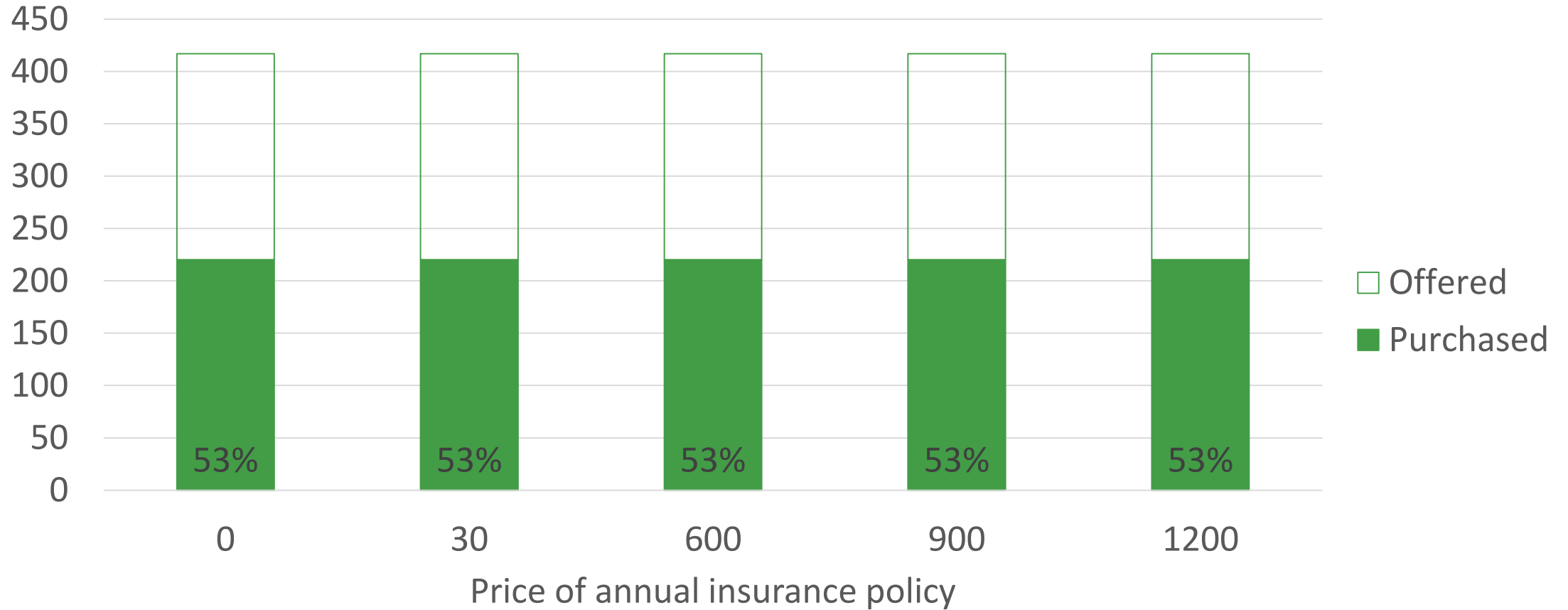
# Demand for health and funeral insurance



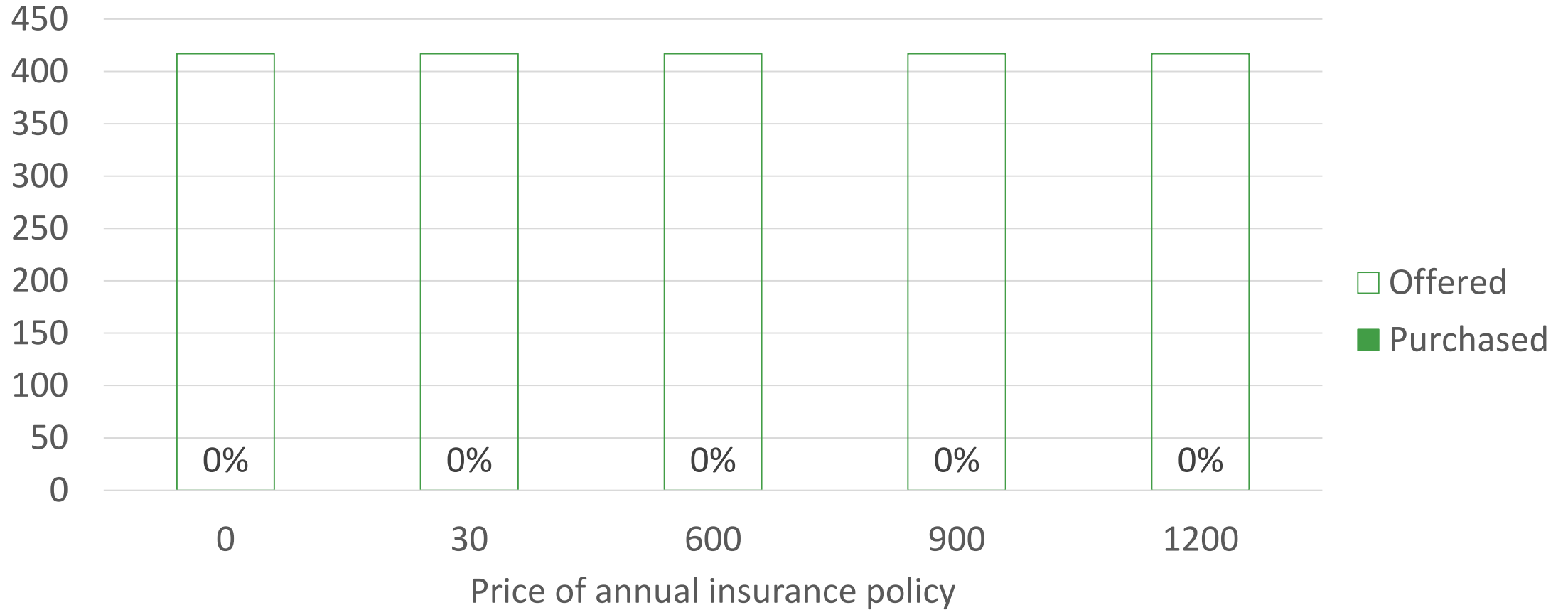
# Demand for health and funeral insurance



# Demand for health and funeral insurance



# Demand for health and funeral insurance



# Proposed mechanism experiments

- Testing the demand for weather index insurance
  - Same idea as funeral and health insurance
- Does predictability matter for humanitarian assistance?
  - Use UBR to preselect HHs eligible for transfers should the need arise
  - Randomly split intervention sample into two
    - One half: Households find out just before transfers begin who was pre-selected (status quo)
    - One half: Households are told in advance who was preselected
  - Effects on:
    - Consumption smoothing
    - Food security
    - On-farm and business investment
    - Savings

# Other possible mechanism experiments

- Implementation timelines
  - Timing of insurance premium payments
- Information spread
  - Farmer field schools vs lead farmers
- Framing
  - Technology adoption in return for 'incentives' vs because of its benefits
  - Watershed management in return for 'incentives' vs because of its benefits
- Pitching
  - Health insurance in its own right vs compared to funeral insurance
  - Different explanations of weather index insurance