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# Hey Big Spender: Testing Alternate Theories on Variance in Welfare "National Effort"

Meg Bergin

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Kathleen Montgomery, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Oral Presentation 2.1

HEY BIG SPENDER: TESTING ALTERNATE THEORIES ON  
VARIANCE IN WELFARE "NATIONAL EFFORT"

Meg Bergin and Kathleen Montgomery\*  
Department of Political Science, Illinois Wesleyan University

Developed countries vary in their levels of social welfare expenditure or "national effort." Is this variance more a result of demographics—countries having different sized welfare-dependent populations? Or, do socio-cultural variables lead countries to have fundamentally different ideas about the government's role in alleviating poverty? This paper tests the demographic and socio-cultural schools across 16 advanced nations using data from the OECD and the *World Values Survey*, 1990-1993 wave.