

Post-Registration Addendum for AEARCTR-0004724 (12/10/2025)

After receiving constructive feedback from journal reviewers and the editor, we expanded the original study design to investigate mechanisms underlying the crowding-out effect documented in the preregistered experiment. The original preregistration (AEARCTR-0004724) specified only the treatment arms required to test whether supportive thoughts and prayers reduce material aid.

The expanded study includes additional treatment arms designed to examine two potential mechanisms: virtue signaling and social norms. Because these mechanisms must be evaluated within the same behavioral and contextual environment as the primary outcome, we re-ran the original experiment—including all preregistered treatment arms—for a more recent hurricane (Debby) and embedded the new mechanism treatments within this replication. The expanded study was approved by the University of Wyoming IRB (IRB-2024-292).

Analyses involving the new mechanism treatments were not part of the original preregistered analysis plan. The design of the expanded study, including a total planned sample size of $N = 1,300$ (approximately 100 participants per treatment arm, separately for religious Christians and for non-religious atheists/agnostics), is described in detail in IRB-2024-292.

These updates were not part of the original preregistration but are provided here for transparency.