

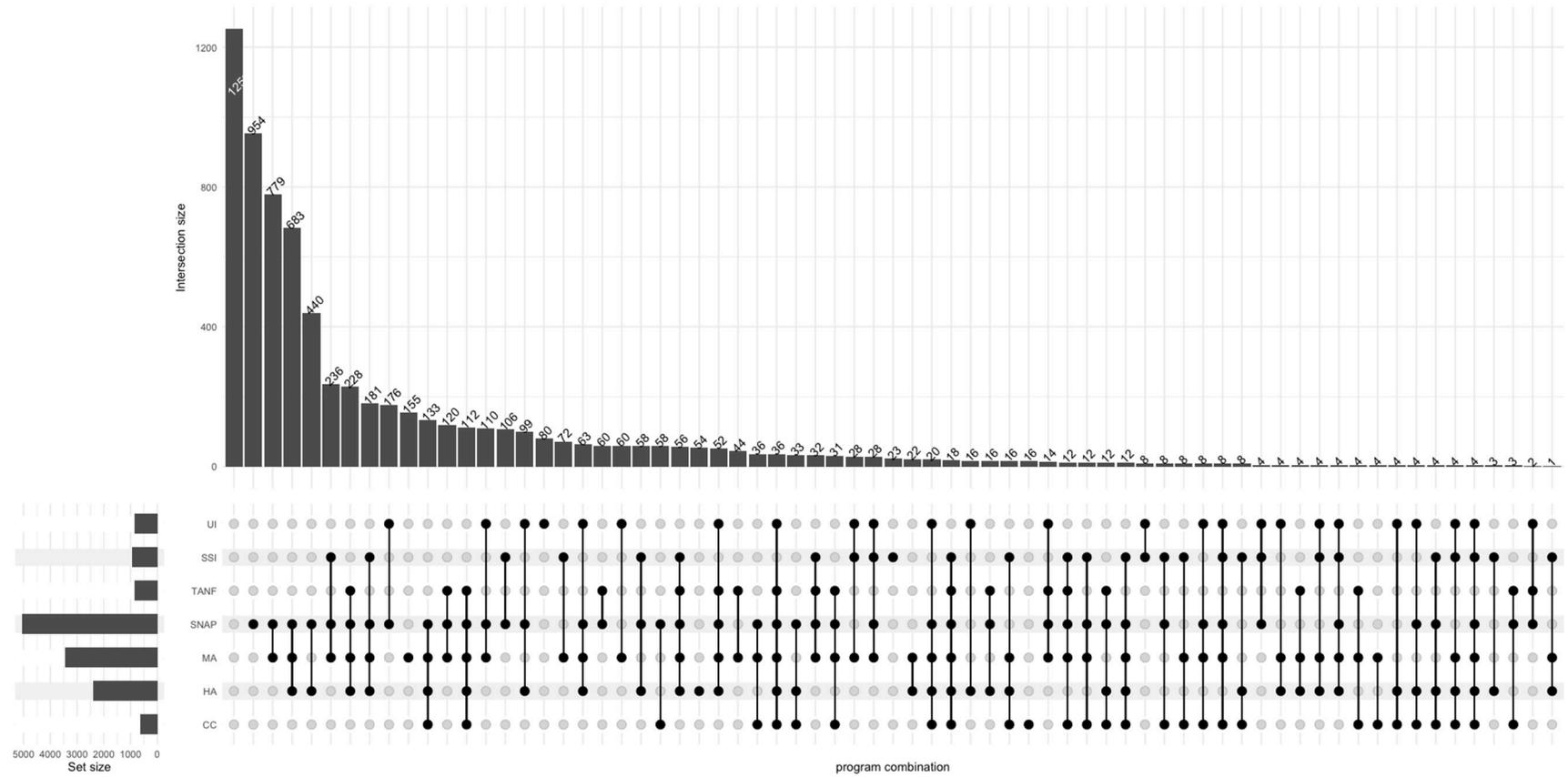
### **Supplementary Material A. The Determination of the Final Model of GBTM**

The first stage of the assessment on GBTM involved determining the optimal number of trajectory groups. We tested models with 3-7 groups, basing the maximum on previous research examining patterns of employment trajectories among low-income single mothers (Achdut & Stier 2016; Wu et al., 2008). In the beginning of model assessment, all trajectories were specified as following a cubic polynomial (a third-order polynomial equation), which is flexible in its capacity to capture nuanced trajectories of change. Assessing the BICs from the 4-7 group solution, we found the BICs continued to improve as more groups were added to the model. In this case, Nagin (2005) suggests that the researchers have to use domain knowledge to determine the optimal number that balances model parsimony and comprehensiveness. After comparing the consistency between the seven trajectory groups identified by the GBTM and the seven types of employment suggested in the literature, we decided to keep the model parsimony of a five-group solution, combining two increasing employment trajectory groups into one group (the fast employment recovery group) and two decreasing employment trajectory groups into another group (the decreasing employment group) due to their similar patterns and small sizes. The second stage of the assessment on GBTM involved refining the model by altering the orders of the polynomial equation of the time to test each group's trajectory. The best-fit model selected by the BIC criteria was the five-group model with three cubic trajectories, one quadratic trajectory and one flat trajectory (orders are specified as 0, 2, 3, 3, 3, BIC= -12313.24). In the last stage of model assessment GBTM, we examined the posterior probabilities of group membership to assess the final model's adequacy (following Nagin, 2005, we sought the probability of at least .7 for all groups). The average posterior probabilities of group membership for the five trajectory groups ranged from .984 to .999, indicating adequate model precision.

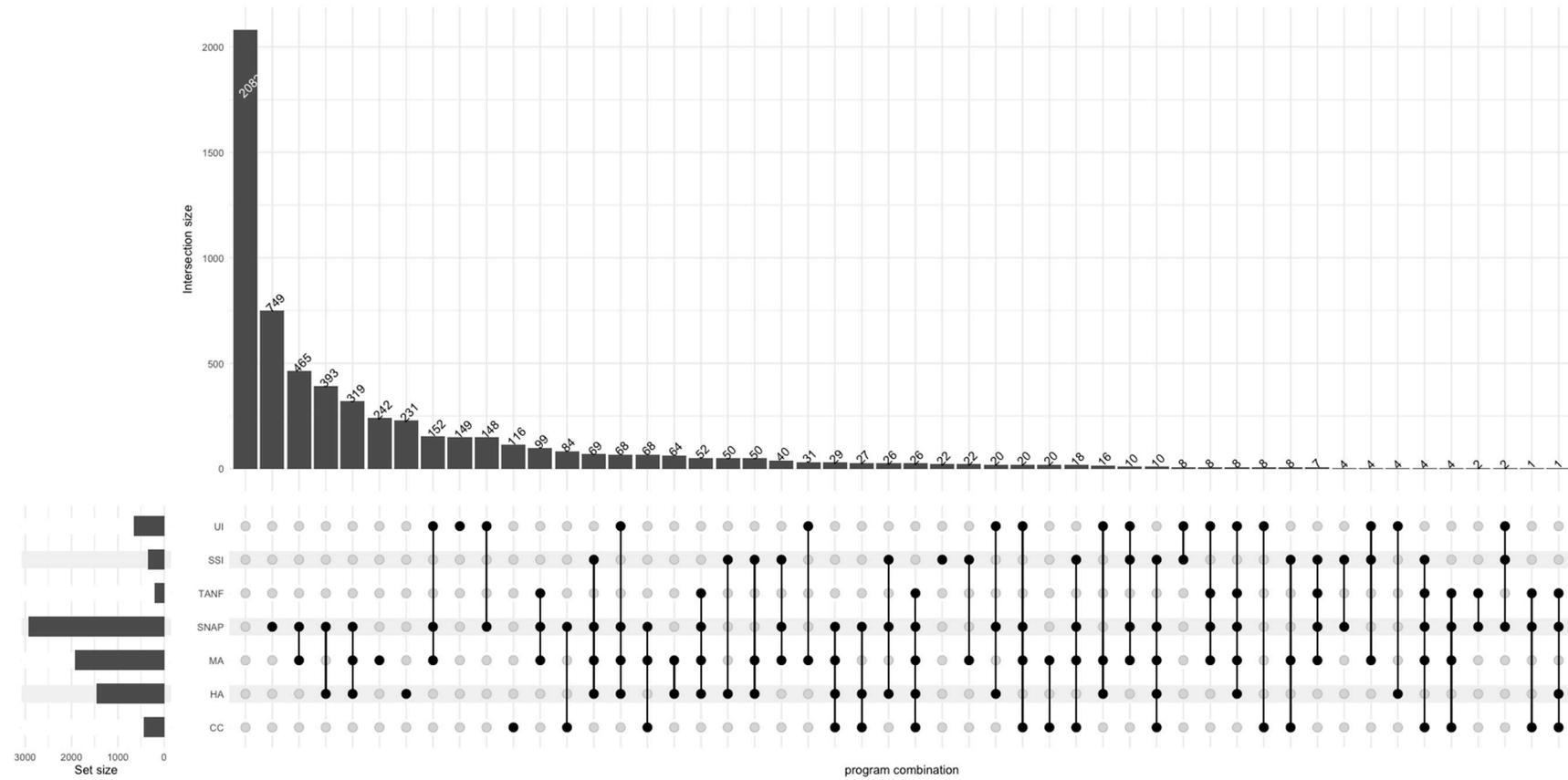




Patterns of Monthly Family Benefit Packages: Slow Employment Recovery (N=6,960)



Patterns of Monthly Family Benefit Packages: Decreasing Employment (N=6,060)



Patterns of Monthly Family Benefit Packages: Fast Employment Recovery (N=5,700)

