

Drugs, Guns and Early Motherhood in Colombia

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Abstract

This paper uses geographical and temporal variation in drug trafficking networks to instrument for the predominance of violent crime in different regions of Colombia and examines its effect on the prevalence of early motherhood. Using changes in cocaine prices of different international markets I identify exogenous changes in violent crime rates at the municipality level; results from this first stage suggest that homicide rates increase in municipalities when the cocaine price in the international markets that they are strategically best placed to serve increases relative to those in other international markets. My second stage results suggest that a one standard deviation increase in the homicide rate induces a 2.65 p.p. increase in the probability of early motherhood.

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All errors are the responsibility of the author.

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