Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral

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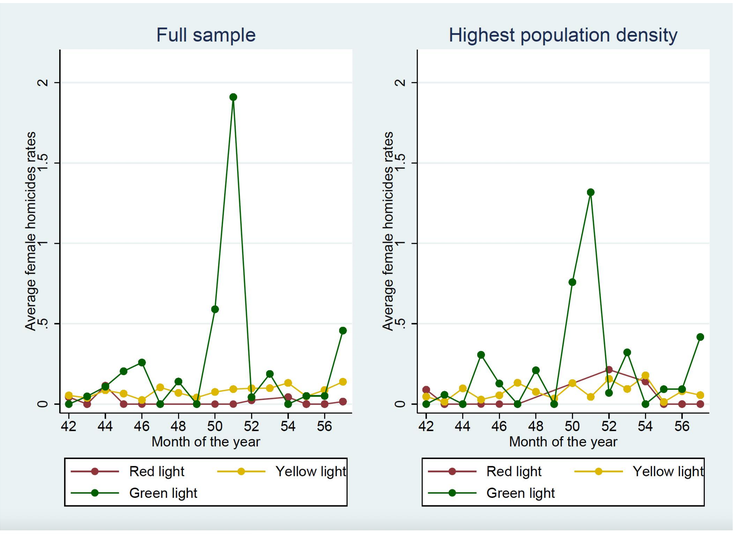
COVID-19 Pandemic and Violence: Contagions and Curfew Policy on Female Homicides

PROBLEM

Forced coexistence during the recent pandemic lockdowns has been found to have a positive effect in the fight against gender violence. Public Health Issue.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the causal effect of COVID-19 pandemic curfew and lockdown durations on gender violence.



METHODS PROPOSED

- To estimate the effect of the curfew and red-light policies on femicide rates, we rely on an instrumental variables approach. Naïve estimation:

$$Y_{imy} = \alpha + \beta_1 DurCurfew_{imy} + \beta_2 DurRed_{imy} + \beta_3 DurYellow_{imy} + \beta_4 DurGreen_{imy} + \tau_i + \rho_p + \lambda_m + \varphi_y + \varepsilon_{ipmy}$$

- Main estimation uses a set of instruments Z for the endogenous duration variables, composed of the two lags of contagion levels as well as the duration lags of each red-policy status. Main estimation:

$$Duration_{imy} = \gamma_1 DurCurfew_{im_{-1}y} + \gamma_2 DurRed_{im_{-1}y} + \gamma_3 DurYellow_{im_{-1}y} + \gamma_4 DurGreen_{im_{-1}y} + \gamma_5 New\ contagions\ rate_{im_{-1}y} + \gamma_6 New\ contagions\ rate_{im_{-2}y} + \tau_i + \rho_p + \lambda_m + \varphi_y + \varepsilon_{ipmy}$$

RESULTS

- The duration of the generalized lockdown and the duration of the less restrictive mobility measures led to the **female homicide rate increase by 0.91 percentage points and 0.23 pp to 0.8 pp**, respectively.
- A longer duration of generalized lockdown led to a **stronger effect of 1.72 pp increase in female homicide rates.**
- Results are stronger when analyzing the municipalities with higher population density.
- The effects of the initial lockdown on crime **are larger** (in absolute terms), which is explained by the **asymmetry of the implemented measures**.

TABLE 2. EFFECTS OF CURFEW AND RED-LIGHT DURATION POLICY ON FEMALE HOMICIDE RATES: INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLES APPROACH

	Instrumental variables: main specification	
	Female homicide rates	
	GMM results	
	(1)	*(2)*
Curfew duration	0.00905* (0.00523)	0.0172** (0.00796)
Red-light duration	−0.000126 (0.00168)	0.000428 (0.00279)
Yellow-light duration	0.00228** (0.000933)	0.00363*** (0.00140)
Green-light duration	0.00796*** (0.00299)	0.00828** (0.00356)
Month F.E.	X	X
Year F.E.	X	X
Municipality F.E.	X	X
Province F.E.	X	X
Observations	8028	3780
R^2	0.028	0.021

Robust standard errors in parentheses. Significance levels *$p<0.1$, **$p<0.05$, ***$p<0.01$.
GMM, General Method of Moments.

CONCLUSIONS

- Female homicides are a global public health problem.
- Absolute mobility restriction led to
- an increase in the rate of women victims of gender violence
- Public policy measures should introduce alternative actions to reduce forced cohabitation and the exposition to partner's violence.

ACHIEVEMENTS

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