

# Effects of Covid on Domestic Violence?

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# “Horrrifying surge”

## What is the impact of Covid-19 policies on family violence?

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- Widespread claims of increases in domestic violence globally
- Large literature emerges
  - Published speculation of large increases
  - Empirical work in U.S. cities and abroad
  - Gonzalez et al. caution against "rush to publish"
- Peterman and O'Donnell (x3)
  - Out of N=25 US studies, 12 TWFE/Event Studies
  - Mixed evidence

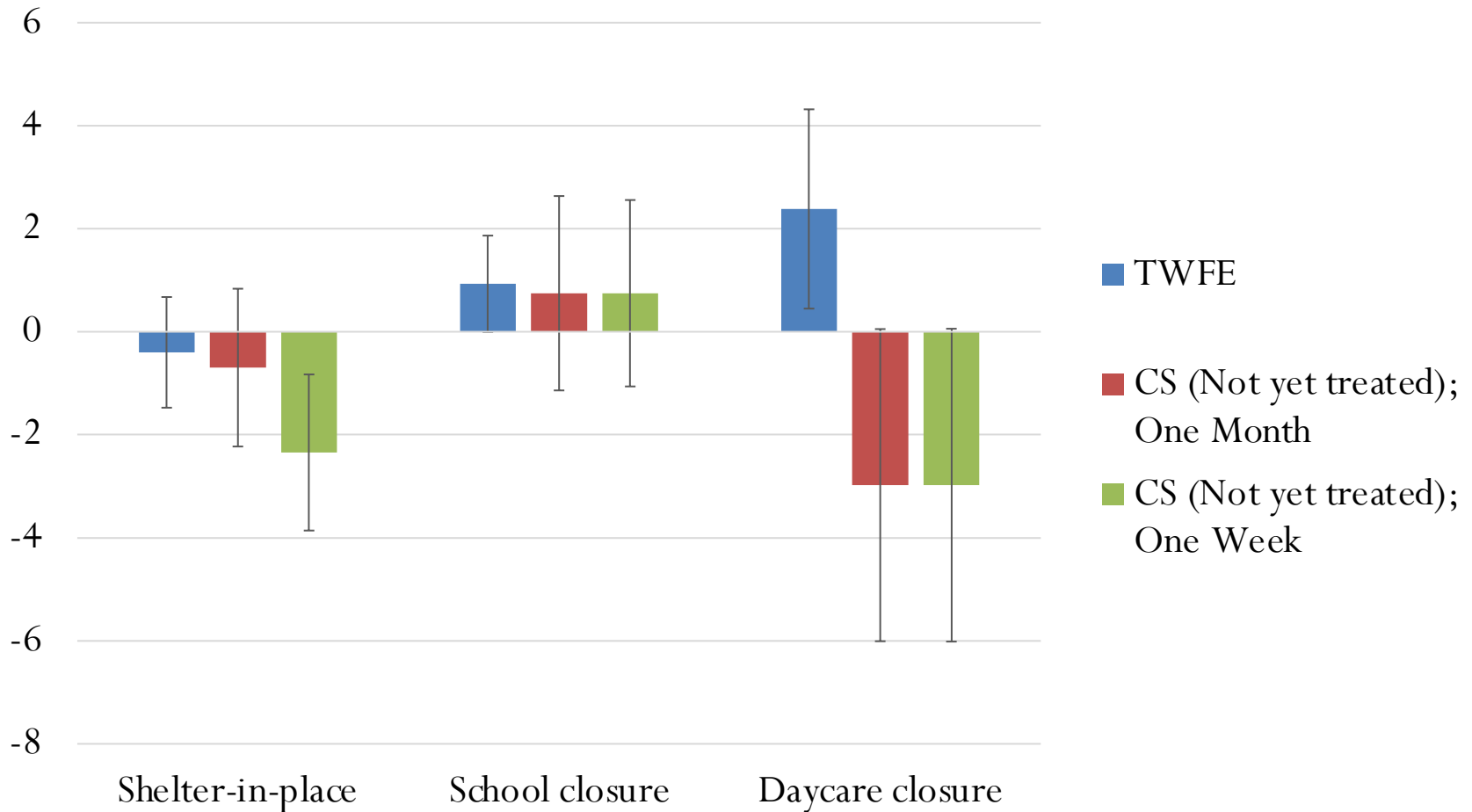
# Reasons for mixed evidence

1. Publication bias
2. Time-frame
3. Locations
4. Outcomes
5. Treatments
6. Empirical approach

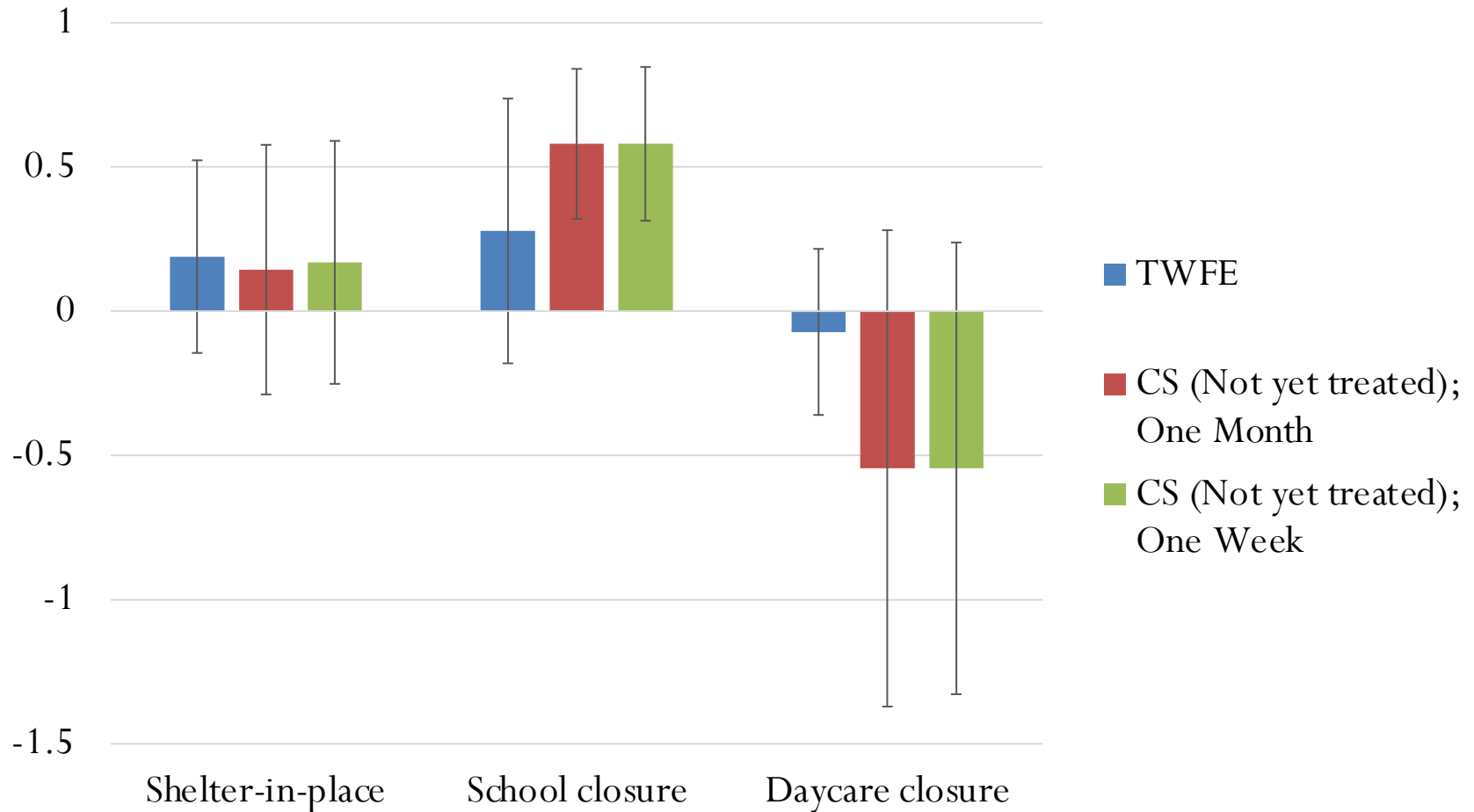
# Our paper

- Data
  - 911 calls and police incidents in 30 cities, 18 States
  - Feb 16 to August 15, 2018-2020
- Outcomes
  - Domestic violence, child abuse (& family violence)
  - Aggregate to daily level
- Treatments: SIP, school closures, daycare closures
- Compare methods
  - Callaway and Sant'Anna (2020)
  - Traditional (and biased) TWFE results

# Results: Effects on Domestic Violence



# Results: Effects on Child Abuse



# Take-aways

- Wide range of estimates of the impact of Covid-19 policies on family violence
  - Important differences between school and daycare closures
  - Important to consider the window of time in the data
  - Bias from TWFE important and can dramatically affect results
- Hard to disentangle mechanisms – Covid-19 policies are bundled with changes in employment, other government policies, pandemic stress, etc.