

Intertemporal and Heterogeneous Effects of Lockdown Mandates on Violent Crime in Chile

Master's Thesis Policy Economics

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August 2024

Research Question and Main Approach

Research Question

How can COVID-19 lockdown imposition and removal impact on violent crime in Chile?

Main Approach

- Dynamic impacts of lockdown imposition and removal on five variables of violent crime during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Intertemporal and heterogeneous treatment effects using the de Chaisemartin and D'Haultfœuille (2023) estimator (DID_ℓ)
- **Identifying assumption:** The timing of lockdown mandates is conditionally random
- Placebo estimators to test the no-anticipation and parallel trends assumptions. Null hypothesis: All placebos are jointly equal to zero

Main Results: Estimated weighted average

Dynamic Effects of Lockdown Mandates on Crime

- Negative signs for the effects on crime of lockdown entry and positive signs for lockdown exit
- Reduction of crime was predominantly larger during the first wave
- Placebo estimators: Non-compliance of no-anticipation and parallel trends assumptions, except for homicides

Mechanisms

- ① Mobility: Results are consistent with mobility being a mechanism
 - Placebo estimators: Non-compliance of key assumptions
- ② Unemployment: Results not consistent with unemployment as a mechanism
 - Lockdown entry is linked with a reduction in employment during the first wave
 - Placebo estimators: Compliance of key assumptions

Contribution and implications

Main Contribution

The contribution of this paper is to provide estimates of dynamic impacts of lockdown imposition and removal on five variables of violent crime, and to explore the mechanisms behind this relationship

Contribution to the Literature

- ① Focus on Chile, a developing country located in Latin America
 - This investigation broadens the understanding of how lockdown mandates impact on crime in the world's most violent region
- ② This paper uses state-of-the-art econometric techniques regarding the estimation of dynamic effects of lockdown mandates on crime
 - It provides estimates using an approach based on intertemporal and heterogeneous treatment
- ③ I explicitly investigate the potential mechanisms behind the changes in violent crime after lockdowns are imposed and removed