

Bombing, Heating, and Causal Models

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Bombing strategy in Vietnam

- Discontinuities in U.S. strategies employed during the Vietnam War to estimate their causal impacts.
- Rounding thresholds in an algorithm used to target air strikes
- Bombing increased the military and political activities of the communist insurgency, weakened local governance, and reduced noncommunist civic engagement.
- Spatial discontinuity across neighboring military regions that pursued different counterinsurgency strategies.
- A strategy emphasizing overwhelming firepower plausibly increased insurgent attacks and worsened attitudes toward the U.S. and South Vietnamese government, relative to a more hearts-and-minds-oriented approach.

Heating differences between the North and South in China

- China's Huai River policy: free winter heating via the provision of coal for boilers in cities north of the Huai River but denied heat to the south.
- Regression discontinuity design based on distance from the Huai River
- Ambient concentrations of TSPs are about 184 g/m³ [95% confidence interval (CI): 61, 307] or 55% higher in the north.
- Life expectancies are about 5.5 y (95% CI: 0.8, 10.2) lower in the north owing to an increased incidence of cardiorespiratory mortality.
- Long-term exposure to an additional 100 g/m³ of TSPs is associated with a reduction in life expectancy at birth of about 3.0 y (95% CI: 0.4, 5.6).

Thoughts for evaluation

- Natural experiments
- Causal identification strategies
- Regression discontinuity

References

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