

*Comments on:
“Inside the War on Drugs:
Effectiveness and Unintended Consequences of a
Large Illicit Crops Eradication Program in Colombia”*

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- Compelling evidence on the negative effects of spraying on coca cultivation and civil conflict
- Novel unique and rich data set on daily eradication and conflict related violence. Should be emphasized as the main contribution of the paper

Comments on Identification Strategy:

1. Including municipality and fixed effects only solves static endogeneity (and aggregate trends), there may still be time-feedback effects between dependent and independent variable
 - For example: more eradication=more violence=more poverty (grievance channel as described by Miguel et al. (2004), Miguel and Santyanath (2011), and Collier and Hoeffler (2004)) =more coca=more eradication
 - Strong evidence that this is the case in Rozo (2014)

2. Aerial spraying has a strong correlation with distance to base and army mobile brigades. These are included together as independent variable in the same regression.

3. Exclude municipalities without coca on the period of analysis from the sample

Interpretation of results

1. My preferred results, which employ the daily data show that spraying increases combatants deaths on preparation window, and civilian deaths after the treatment. First is due to military check-ups before flights and latter by retaliation
2. The short and medium-term effect of spraying on violence should be explained by different factors. Mechanism?

Other minor comments

- Is 1 year the long-term? perhaps medium-term
- Show time evolution of the effects of spraying on violence in a graph with daily data
- Are the effects on violence big or small? (seem big)