

Happily ever after? Domestic violence, women's empowerment and stress after CCTs

Adriana Camacho Catherine Rodriguez

Comments by
Martin Valdivia

Impact Evaluation Network, 10th Anniversary Meeting
Washington DC, March 2017

Quick summary

- Objective: measure effect of Colombian CCT program (FeA) on domestic violence
- Identification strategy: exogenous variation in time (month) and space (municipality) in which payments actually occur
- Data:
 - Municipality-level records of DV events reported through health and justice systems (2007-2010)
 - FeA data on when payment actually occurred in each municipality
 - FeA baseline (2002) and FU (2003) surveys
- Results:
 - 6% decrease in intimate partner violence (IPV)
 - No effect on women's empowerment, labor participation, marital status
 - Stress effect is relevant – DV increases with frustration of missed payment

Some concerning issues/questions

- Data:
 - Municipal records do not differentiate by program affiliation
 - They need to be strong enough for a person to denounce, go to health center.
 - Thus, we are not able to capture the kind of processes hypothesized by Bobonis et. al. (2013) – emotional violence and threats are the ones that raise with CCT
 - Time difference: we look at DV by 2007-2010, women's empowerment, labor, marital status by 2003
 - Are we assuming time-invariant effects?
- Identification strategy:
 - Using time-space variation focus on the transfer effect of CCTs, less on the importance of training sessions, networking
 - The empowerment effect can still come through the woman being the recipient of the transfer, but that would not change with time, or yes?