

Infant Mortality and the Repeal of Federal Prohibition

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1. What are the main questions raised in the paper?
 - (1) What were the effects of the repeal of federal prohibition (potential alcohol consumption) on infant mortality?
 - (2) How to deal with the data of infant mortality when compare the heteroskedastic counties and years?
 - (3) Were there any significant externality from individual policy choices and states on their neighbors?

2. Why should we care about it?
 - (1) Infant mortality is a simple indicator to observe how the alcohol influence of civils health because it can ignore the time effect of chronic disease by alcohol. It could be a good policy suggestion for future policy making.
 - (2) Existing methods of OLS cannot catch up the phenomena of infant mortality when we split the data into counties because the rate would be influenced by heteroscedasticity.
 - (3) It also takes the policy externality into account, which characterize the decentralization of nations, especially for federal. It distinguishes the effect of policy under time and neighbors states.

3. What is the author's answer?
 - (1) Repeal of federal prohibition has a robust increase on infant mortality.
 - (2) Policy externality exists and is an important issue for legalizing other illicit substances.

4. How did the author get there?
 - (1) Use willingness-to-pay model to characterize binary states of counties, which is a distribution of individual preference. This step distinguishes the dry and dryish states.
 - (2) Use the comprise of population of each counties and the amount hospital beds and medical institution to find out the pregnant women.
 - (3) Analyze ever-dryish counties and bone dry counties with difference-in-difference estimation.
 - (4) Use the assumption of county-fixed effect on binomial model to estimate the treatment on the probability of infant mortality.