

Seasonality of Attitudes on Violence

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Abstract

We assemble a unique dataset on over 700,000 women's attitudes towards intimate partner violence drawn from 38 countries in the Demographic and Health Surveys between 1992 and 2011. We first document substantial variation in whether women believe that domestic violence is sometimes justifiable, and in particular find large declines in violence acceptance with increasing education, wealth, and age. We then turn to the rural sub sample to identify plausibly exogenous changes in economic well being associated with rainfall failures, and find that a one standard deviation decrease in rainfall below the mean is associated with a 1.87 percentage point increase in acceptance of violence. Together our results demonstrate that women's willingness to accept intimate partner violence is strongly elastic to variation in both income and measures of women's empowerment.