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Thesis Title

Live Women!

An Assessment of the *Programa Viva Mulher*'s Impact on Mortality due to Cervical Cancer in Brazil

Abstract

Cervical cancer is second most common cancer among women in Brazil. In 1994, a World Health Conference was held in Beijing, where cervical cancer was directly addressed and highlighted as a main area in need of public investment. As a direct consequence of the conference, the *Programa Viva Mulher* was created in Brazil (in 1998). The program aims at reducing mortality due to cervical cancer through the provision of pap-smear exams. However, the mortality rate has not shown, in average, any significant change over the past decades in Brazil. Due to data limitation, no study has addressed whether the country's expenditure on the *Programa Viva Mulher* has had an impact on mortality rate. This study uses recent publicly available municipal data, for the years of 1998, 2002 and 2006 in the assessment of whether the program has a statistical impact on mortality due to cervical cancer. To do so, pooled OLS, Fixed Effects, First Differences and Simultaneous Equations models are estimated. The results indicate that the program indeed appears to have had a small but significant negative impact on mortality rate due to cervical cancer, after accounting for possible omitted variables, serial correlation of errors and reverse causality between mortality rate and per capita government spending in the *Programa Viva Mulher*.