

# Hidden benefits of peace: The case of sexual violence

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Abstract

This paper studies the effect on sexual violence of Colombia's recent peace negotiation between the government and the FARC insurgency. Using a matched difference-in-differences identification strategy, we find a significant reduction in sexual violence, measured as the count of sexual assaults per 100 thousand inhabitants, two years after the peace process was signed. During conflict, the rate of sexual violence was higher in municipalities with former FARC activity in contrast with municipalities in peace and remained higher immediately after the peace process was signed. However, two years after the signing of the agreement, the incidence of sexual assaults reduced significantly in the former FARC municipalities.