

# Domestic Violence and Female Labor Participation: Micro-evidence for Colombia

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## MOTIVATION (1/2)

- The debate about women empowerment has been very successful in recent decades due to research that have shown its strong relationship with economic development and poverty reduction.
- One of the main aspects related to empowerment is the female labor participation.
- Although there are many benefits related to increasing employment opportunities for women, there are negative consequences such as domestic violence.

## MOTIVATION (2/2)

- The Colombian female employment rate has increased since the 80's and in a higher rate than other Latin American countries.
- Despite this tendency to enhance the status of women, 37 percent of Colombian women have suffered some form of physical or psychological abuse by their partner or spouse in 2010.
- Comparing this figure with the one of 2000, the incidence of violence has decreased only 4 percent.
- There is some effect of female labor participation in domestic abuse? In what sense?

# THEORETICAL MODELS

- The theoretical models that attempt to explain the relationship between women empowerment and domestic violence can be divided into:
  - ① Non-cooperative bargaining models
  - ② Male backlash models
- In the first, the couple negotiates the level of violence that she would accept a given transfers. It predicts that an increase in outside home options leads to a reduction in physical abuse (Tauchen and Witte (1995)).
- The backlash models assume that gender roles are defined and that any perceived threat by man to his authority shall be punished with violence in order to strengthen its dominant position (Macmillan and Gartner (1999)).

## EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

- Many studies have shown domestic violence may reduce the women's willingness to enter to the labor market (Lloyd (1997); Bowlus and Seitz (2006); Canavire-Bacarreza and Rios and Avila (2010)).
- Anderson and Eswaran (2009) demonstrated how working outside the area of influence of the husband may lead to an increase in the autonomy of women.
- Bhattacharyya et al.(2011) and Villarreal (2007) supports the conclusions of economic models; the labor participation of women leads to a decrease on domestic abuse.
- Aizer (2010) finds the reduction of the gender wage gap over the last years can explain 9 percent of the reduction of domestic violence in the United States.

# DATA

- Data comes from the ENDS (National Demographic and Health Survey), applied by Profamilia every five years since 1990 .
- This survey is a cross-section dataset made only for women between 15 and 49 years old, and addresses issues like fertility, contraception methods, sexual behavior and domestic violence.
- Besides the last, it also has information like education, municipality of residential, number of children, civil status and labor outcomes that will allow to control for all women characteristics.

## SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Whole Sample	Working Status	
		Work	Do not Work
Domestic Violence	0.32	0.32	0.32
Wealth Index	2.53	2.84	2.28
Women's Age	33.61	35.21	32.29
Spouse's Age	38.25	39.21	37.45
Women's Education	2.93	3.17	2.70
Spouse's Education	2.89	3.05	2.75
Number of Children	2.66	2.53	2.77
Children under 3	0.40	0.28	0.55
Current Pregnant	0.04	0.03	0.06
Age at First Birth	20.15	20.77	19.65
Partner's Alcohol Habit	0.65	0.64	0.65
Abused Partner	0.32	0.32	0.32
Contributory Scheme	0.39	0.52	0.29
Spouse's Labor Participation	0.90	0.91	0.89
Number of Observations	24457	11092	13365
Female Labor Participation	0.45		

# EMPIRICAL STRATEGY

- I estimate the presence of domestic violence following the next specification:

$$Pr(V_{im} = 1) = \Phi(\alpha + \theta FemaleEmployment_{im} + \beta X_{im} + \delta_m + \varepsilon_{im})$$

To solve the endogeneity concern, I propose an instrumental variables approach (IV) which specification involves a first and a second stage :

$$FemaleEmployment_{im} = \pi_0 + \pi_1 Children3_{im} + \pi_2 X_{im} + \delta_m + \varepsilon_{im}, \quad (1)$$

$$V_{im} = \alpha_0 + \beta FemaleEmployment_{im} + \alpha_1 X_{im} + \delta_m + \mu_{im} \quad (2)$$



## OLS AND PROBIT RESULTS

	Ever Beaten	
	(1) OLS	(2) Probit
Female Working Status	0.0167** (0.00675)	0.0133** (0.00643)
Female Schooling	-0.00268*** (0.000964)	-0.00292*** (0.000935)
Partner's Schooling	-9.29e-05 (0.000642)	-0.000315 (0.000589)
Age	-0.00633*** (0.000413)	-0.00617*** (0.000390)
Age Difference	-0.00190*** (0.000442)	-0.00181*** (0.000431)
Partner's Working Status	-0.00207 (0.00715)	-0.00177 (0.00730)
Wealth Index	0.00230 (0.00306)	0.00107 (0.00270)
Partner's Abuse	0.135*** (0.00689)	0.119*** (0.00505)
Alcohol	0.0731*** (0.00541)	0.0763*** (0.00501)
Married	-0.0399*** (0.00575)	-0.0427*** (0.00631)
Age at First Marriage	-0.000831 (0.000581)	-0.00108* (0.000648)
Unions	0.0297*** (0.00654)	0.0278*** (0.00566)
Number of Children	0.0127*** (0.00239)	0.0119*** (0.00216)
Constant	0.297*** (0.0186)	