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Does the Relationship Between Mortality and Business Cycles Vary Across Levels of Economic Development?

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12:00 PM - UC Spindletop Room 242

Abstract: We analyze the relationship between mortality and business cycles in Mexico from 1993 through 2004. In addition to national-level analyses, we subset the states by level of development. We find that while overall mortality is procyclical in the more developed states, it is countercyclical in the less developed states. Further, the relationship varies by cause of death. Generally, we find that in the more developed states the mortality rates for behavioral causes of death appear to be positively related to income. Conversely, in poorer states higher incomes may be related to lower mortality rates for preventable (non-behavioral) causes of death. Our results suggest that public health policies may be improved by taking into account how the effects of macroeconomic shocks may differ by level of development.

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