

The Political Determinants of Infant Mortality in Mexico

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Abstract

This paper examines the influence of variance in sub-national political structures on the number of infant mortality rates in 31 Mexican states and one Federal District over the period 1994-2009. A lengthy empirical literature addresses the challenges accompanying political and economic transitions in Latin America (Snyder 1999; 2001; ODonnell 1999; Gibson 2005; Giraudy 2010 to name a few). Of particular note is the extensive work detailing uneven democratization and the retention of authoritarian regimes at the state and local level (in particular Snyder 1999; Giraudy 2010). The results of our cross-sectional time series regressions suggest that the level of political capacity (tax extraction capacity) of Mexican states is associated with lower infant mortality rates as state political accountability increases.