

“The Effects of Migration on Child Health in Mexico”

Nicole Hildebrandt

Department of Economics, Stanford University

David J. McKenzie

Department of Economics, Stanford University

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Themes: Child wellbeing

Regions: North America

Age Ranges: <6

Keywords: Physical Health, Fertility

Abstract: This paper investigates the impact of international migration on child health outcomes in rural Mexico using a nationally representative demographic survey. Historic migration networks are employed as instruments for current household migration to the United States in order to correct for the possible endogeneity of migrant status. Children in migrant households are found to have lower rates of infant mortality and higher birthweights. We study the channels through which migration may affect health outcomes and find evidence that migration raises health knowledge in addition to the direct effect on wealth. However we also find that preventative health care, such as breastfeeding and vaccinations, is less likely for children in migrant households. These results provide a broader and more nuanced view of the health consequences of migration than is offered by the existing literature.