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Spatial Study about the Colombian Violence

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to introduce a spatial description that has never been included before in the study of violence in Colombia at a municipal level, in order to find out what is the spillover effect by which homicides replicate between municipalities, and how violence in Colombia is influenced when this spatial interdependence between regions is introduced by variables such as the distribution of rural and urban property, poverty, presence of illegal armed groups, and drug traffic. The results show that there is a spatial interdependence which means that homicides are diffuse through neighbors at a high concentrated level. On the other hand, violence is explained by poverty, illegal armed groups and drug traffic. Other variables such as the distribution of rural and property do not show a high relevance in explaining the homicide rates.