Political Violence and Children in the City of Bulawayo

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Abstract

This research aims to explore how political violence threatens the health of young children in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Utilizing a distinction in-contrasts relapse procedure, we uncover the harmful results of political viciousness on Zimbabwean youngster wellbeing. Specifically, political viciousness makes kids weigh 0.720 and 0.565 standard deviations less for their age and stature, separately, when presented to it. Our exploration prescribes embracing opportune and successful drives to limit the pernicious outcomes of political brutality.

Keywords

Violence, Bulawayo, Health, Children in the City.

Introduction

Political violence is considered a barrier to long-term development and risk to world security. Not only could political violence result in fatalities and life-altering traumas, but it could also result in severe unintended consequences, such as victims dying years after the violence has ceased. Political violence might degrade people's quality of life in many different respects, notably increased illnesses, poor productivity, and worse academic attainment.

The reason for this exploration is to investigate how political savagery compromises the strength of little youngsters in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. We are keen on this city since it has been tormented by political savagery for a long time. The examination contributes in two ways. To begin with, we gather at a more subtle however urgently critical outcome of political brutality: the hindrance of early human resources. Different examinations, then again, put more accentuation on individuals who require prompt, compassionate supplies.

Moreover, our examination is conveyed in Zimbabwe, one of the world's generally vicious and immature nations. Given these conditions, it is obvious that Zimbabwean kids are especially presented with the risk of political savagery. Evaluating the results of rough openness on youngster wellbeing may assist us with bettering comprehending the brutality of human wellbeing, permitting state-run administrations to quickly send dependable arrangements.

We reveal the damaging consequences of political violence on Zimbabwean child health. In particular, political violence causes children to weigh 0.720 and 0.565 standard deviations less for their age and height, respectively, when they are exposed to it. We utilize the difference-in-differences regression methodology to quantify the impacts of political violence exposure on child health.

Our research is related to those looking into children's susceptibility to occurrences such as weather (Le, 2020), food scarcity (Nguyen, 2021a, 2021b), and policies (Le & Nguyen, 2019, 2020a, 2020b). Because the repercussions of poor early childhood health can last into adulthood, leading to cognitive impairment and poor productivity, our research recommends adopting timely and effective initiatives to minimize the harmful consequences of political violence.

Methodology

The Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (Z-DHS) supplied the statistics for the analysis. Weight-for-age and weight-for-height are the two metrics used to assess a child's health. We limit the sample to the Z-DHS waves that have access to the Global Positioning System, which leaves Z-DHS waves four to seven. The rationale for this restriction is that the child's area is georeferenced, allowing us to determine whether or not they were exposed to political violence.

We can identify if a Zimbabwean child was exposed to political violence based on his/her living area and survey and violence timing. For example, he/she is exposed to political violence if political violence existed in his/her living area before being surveyed and after he/she was born. The primary explanatory, *Political Violence (PV)*, is a zero-one dummy, one of the Zimbabwean children experienced political violence, and zero otherwise.

Our Z-DHS sample consists of 1,018 Zimbabwean children in the city of Bulawayo. According to Table 1, the average Zimbabwean weight-for-age is -0.441, and weight-for-height is 0.173 standard deviations. 23.1% of them were exposed to political violence. The Zimbabwean moms' present age is 27.98, and age upon entering the world is 26.09, all

things considered. Plus, they have 10.32 long stretches of tutoring overall. A male drives 64% of the families in Zimbabwe. 49.9% of Zimbabwean kids are male. They age 28.51 months by and large. The Z-DHS mean birth request is 2.344. The portion of plural birth is 1.2%.

Table 1 Statistics

	Mean (A)	**SD (B)**	**Obs. (C)**
Weight-for-age	-0.441	1.249	1,018
Weight-for-height	0.173	1.208	1,018
Political Violence	0.231	0.422	1,018
Maternal Age	27.98	6.140	1,018
Maternal Age at Birth	26.09	5.881	1,018
Maternal Education	10.32	2.541	1,018
Male Household Head	0.640	0.480	1,018
Male Child	0.499	0.500	1,018
Child Age (months)	28.51	17.33	1,018
Child Birth Order	2.344	1.517	1,018
Plural Birth	0.012	0.108	1,018

We employ the following regression to reveal the damaging consequences of political violence on Zimbabwean child health in the city of Bulawayo:

$$Y_{irbt} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PV_{rbt} + \lambda_b + \gamma_t + \delta_r + X'_{irbt}\Omega + \epsilon_{irbt}$$

The subscripts stand for the Zimbabwean child *i*, living in *r*, born in *b*, and interviewed in t. The variable Y_{irbt} is the main dependent metrics, such as height-for-age and weight-for-age. The main independent is PV_{rbt}. This is a zero-one dummy, one of the Zimbabwean children experienced political violence, and zero otherwise.

The regression also possesses the set $\{\lambda_b, \gamma_t, \delta_r\}$ denoting residency, birth, as well as survey fixed effects. Vector X'_{irbt} Control for child and maternal attributes such as maternal education, current age and squared-age, age and squared-age at birth, male head indicator, child gender, birth order, age and squared-age in months, plural birth. ϵ_{irbt} is the error term. The coefficient β_1 quantifies the damaging consequences of political violence on Zimbabwean child health in Bulawayo.

Results

Table 2 shows the estimated effects of exposure to political violence on Zimbabwean child health. Column A reports the estimates from the specification where only *Political Violence* is controlled. Column B includes the set of Zimbabwean residency, birth, and survey fixed

effects. Column C additionally includes Zimbabwean maternal attributes such as maternal education, current age and squared-age, age and squared-age at birth, male head indicator. Column D reports the estimates from the specification that further control for Zimbabwean child attributes such as child gender, birth order, age and squared-age in months, plural birth, on top of the fixed effects as well as maternal attributes.

As in Column A, political violence causes Zimbabwean children to weigh 0.193 and 0.122 standard deviations less for their age and height, respectively, when exposed to it. These estimates, however, are simply the correlation between Zimbabwean health and violence without adequate factors jointly influencing violence and Zimbabwean health. Therefore, Column B adds Zimbabwean residency, birth, and survey fixed effects to control for spatial and timing heterogeneities. Then, Column C proceeds to account for the Zimbabwean maternal attributes biasing the estimates. Educated Zimbabwean mothers, for example, tend to have healthier children (Le, 2021a, 2021b) and are less likely to be experienced violence (Le & Nguyen, 2020c, 2020d) simultaneously.

Lastly but most importantly, Column D reports the estimates from the most extensive specification where Zimbabwean child's attributes are accounted for on top of the fixed effects (Le & Nguyen, 2021a, 2021b) and maternal attributes (Le & Nguyen, 2021c, 2021d). We find that political violence causes Zimbabwean children to weigh 0.720 and 0.565 standard deviations less for their age and height, respectively, when exposed to it. The estimates are statistically significant with a p-value of 0.01.

Table 2 Main Results

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Panel A: Weight-for-age				
Exposed to Political Violence	-0.193**	-0.659***	-0.709***	-0.720***
	(0.067)	(0.155)	(0.168)	(0.152)
Observations	1,018	1,018	1,018	1,018
Panel B: Weight-for-height				
Exposed to Political Violence	-0.122*	-0.539**	-0.564**	-0.565***
	(0.061)	(0.171)	(0.197)	(0.108)
Observations	1,018	1,018	1,018	1,018
Child Controls	.	.	.	X
Maternal Controls	.	.	X	X
Fixed Effects	.	X	X	X

*p<0.1, **p<0.05, ***p<0.01.

Then, adopting various specifications, we evaluate the robustness of our findings. To begin, we exclude teenage mothers from the Z-DHS dataset. We should be concerned that adolescent mothers are driving the consequences of political violence (Le, 2021c, 2021d). As a result, we limited our sample to Zimbabwean mothers who were 20 or older at the time of their birth. Table 3 indicates that removing teenage mothers does not influence our findings. Political violence causes Zimbabwean children to weigh 0.938 and 0.814 standard deviations less for their age and height, respectively, when they are exposed to it.

Table 3 Robustness 1

	Weight-for-age (A)	**Weight-for-height (B)**
Political Violence	-0.938***	-0.814***
	(0.127)	(0.138)
Observations	893	893
Child Controls	X	X
Maternal Controls	X	X
Fixed Effects	X	X

*p<0.1, **p<0.05, ***p<0.01.

Next, we employ other metrics of Zimbabwean child health to assess the robustness. Table 4 uses percentile metrics instead of standardized metrics (Nguyen, 2021c, 2021d). The detrimental relationship between political violence and Zimbabwean health continues to be seen. Political violence causes Zimbabwean children to weigh 14.960 and 12.145 percentiles less for their age and height, respectively, when exposed to it. Overall, the robustness of our findings is confirmed by various specifications.

Table 4 Robustness 2

	Weight-for-age (A)	**Weight-for-height (B)**
Political Violence	-14.960***	-12.145**
	(4.007)	(4.253)
Observations	1,018	1,018
Child Controls	X	X
Maternal Controls	X	X
Fixed Effects	X	X

*p<0.1, **p<0.05, ***p<0.01.

Conclusion

The motivation behind this exploration is to investigate how political brutality undermines the wellbeing of small kids in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. We are keen on this city since it has been tormented by political brutality for a long time. Specifically, political brutality makes kids weigh 0.720 and 0.565 standard deviations less for their age and tallness, individually, when they are presented to it. Our examination is identified with those investigating kids' powerlessness to events like climate (Le and Nguyen, 2021e, 2021f), food shortage (Nguyen, 2021e, 2021f), and arrangements (Le and Nguyen, 2021g). Altogether, we uncover the harmful results of political brutality on Zimbabwean kid wellbeing. Since the repercussions of poor youth wellbeing can endure into adulthood, prompting intellectual disability and helpless efficiency, our exploration prescribes embracing opportune and powerful drives to limit the harmful outcomes of political viciousness.

The exploration contributes in two ways. In the first place, we accumulate a more subtle yet vitally huge result of political viciousness: the hindrance of early human resources. Different investigations, then again, put more accentuation on individuals who require prompt, helpful supplies. Besides, our examination is conveyed in Zimbabwe, which is among the world's generally brutal and immature nations. Since the repercussions of poor youth wellbeing can endure into adulthood, prompting intellectual debilitation and helpless usefulness, our examination prescribes embracing opportune and successful drives to limit the malicious outcomes of political brutality.

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