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Presentation title: Spatial Spillover of a Crime Crackdown Policy in Brazil: the case of the Pacifying Police Units (UPPs)

This paper aims to analyze whether the installation of Pacifying Police Units (UPPs) in some slums (also called favelas) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, resulted in an overflow of violence to neighboring areas. The key hypothesis is that when a crime crackdown policy is implemented in a community, rather than reducing illicit activity, it merely partially shifts it to other locations with similar characteristics. Using a Spatial Difference-in-Differences (SDID) estimator that allows the modeling of a possible spillover effect, we show that Police Districts (PDs) that received UPPs experienced a decrease in drug trade-related crime, including rates of intentional homicide, violent crime, and car thefts. On the other hand, the opposite effect occurred in neighboring PDs that did not receive UPPs.