Till the Lockdown Do Us Part: Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Marital Formation and Dissolution

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Abstract
In this study, we consider the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on family formation and dissolution. We use national microdata covering all marriages and divorces in Mexico and an event-study design. Our findings indicate that over March through December of 2020, marriage rates declined by 54% and divorce rates by 43%. By the end of 2020, divorce rates recover back to baseline levels, but marriage rates remain 30% below the 2017-2019 baseline level. Overall, our findings indicate that marital dissolutions quickly recovered (6 months into the pandemic), but family formation may be delayed or even permanently reduced.

Project Outcomes of Interest
Marriage rates

Key Findings
Our findings indicate that over March through December of 2020, marriage rates declined by 54% and divorce rates by 43%. By the end of 2020, divorce rates recover back to baseline levels, but marriage rates remain 30% below the 2017-2019 baseline level. Overall, our findings indicate that marital dissolutions quickly recovered (6 months into the pandemic), but family formation may be delayed or even permanently reduced.
Link to Results

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Impact Goals

- Improve women’s health, safety, and economic empowerment

Project Data Collection Mode

- Web

Link to Public Data

https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/nupcialidad/?ps=microdatos

Results Status

Results