



The Impact of Providing Psycho-Social Support to Indigent Families and Increasing their Access to Social Services: Evaluating Chile Solidario

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Country	Chile
Organizing Theme	Economic Opportunities and Access to Assets, Voice and Agency
Status	Ongoing
Intervention Category	Social Support
Sector	Social Development
Abstract	<p>Chile Solidario (CHS) is an innovative poverty program which targets indigent families in Chile. It attempts to lift families out of poverty through a coordinated set of stimulus to the demand and supply of social services, and through the provision of psycho-social support to beneficiary families. In this paper we analyze the short and medium term effectiveness of this program using both administrative and survey data. We use a RD design, exploring the fact that in order to be eligible a family must have a means-test score below a given cutoff, which varies by municipality. We find that the program leads to increases the take-up of subsidies and of employment programs. The impacts of CHS vary across families with different characteristics, and located in different municipalities: the impact of the program on the take up of subsidies is larger in municipalities with a better network of social services, for families served by social workers with relatively low caseloads, and in male headed families. The impact of the program on employment of spouse is larger in rural areas and for families served by social workers with relatively low caseload. We were not able to detect any positive impacts of CS on employment or income of the head.</p>
Gender Connection	Gender Informed Analysis
Gender Outcomes	Gender disaggregated labor force participation, psychological agency
IE Design	Regression Discontinuity and Difference in Difference
Intervention	Chile Solidario has four components. 1. Intensive psycho-social support 2. There is a conditional cash transfer program, but in practice, the condition does not apply 3. Families are guaranteed all of the subsidies they are entitled to such as vaccines 4. Preferential access to social services.
Intervention Period	2002-Present; For each individual, the intensive psycho-social support lasts for 24 months and cash transfers last for 24 months.
Sample population	There were 6744 households surveyed in the Panel Chile Solidario, which was collected specifically for evaluating the impact of the program. The panel is constructed from the nationally representative household survey, and contains participants in the program and a "suitable" comparison group.
Comparison conditions	For the regression discontinuity, the comparison is individuals who had a proxy-means test just high enough to not qualify for the program.



Unit of analysis	Individual
Evaluation Period	2003-2007
Results	The program increases the uptake of subsidies and employment programs. The impacts are stronger for later cohorts; the effects range from 1.5-6 p.p. increase takeup in services. However, there was no positive impact of the program on the employment of the HH head, either male or female. The program does have a positive impact on the employment of the spouse of the HH head.
Primary study limitations	
Funding Source	Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund
Reference(s)	Carneiro, P., Galasso, E., & Ginja, R. (2009). The Impact of Providing Psycho-Social Support to Indigent Families and Increasing their Access to Social Services: Evaluating Chile Solidario.
Link to Studies	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~uctprcp/chile.pdf
Microdata	