



Resumen 083

DOI: 10.47550/RCE/MEM/31.33

# Maternal education and child mortality in Ecuador: cross-sectional analysis

*Valeria Banderas*<sup>59</sup>

---

## Información

### Palabras clave:

Child Mortality  
Mother's education  
Cross-sectional Analysis  
Ecuador

### Clasificación JEL:

I12.

## Resumen:

A fundamental issue for development economists and policy makers is to explain how the level of education influences child health, child mortality, and human capital formation. According to Currie (2008), economists have three reasons to analyze child health and mortality. First, these indicators allow to measure a government policy. Second, children's health has an impact on their health and productivity when they become adults. Third, children are increasingly being included as economic actors for their own right. Cutler et al. (2006) complement these reasons when they say that people with low levels of income, education or social status often have a higher chance of dying than those with high levels of them. These low levels are typical of developing countries such as Latin American countries. For instance, if one ranks the highest at the top. In Latin America, Ecuador ranked 6th within 21 countries between 2008 and 2015. Thus, reducing mortality in childhood remains a hard task in Ecuador.

In this sense, the aim of this paper is to assess the effect of maternal education on child mortality in Ecuador. Census data for 2010 and educational infrastructure records are used. To tackle endogeneity, on the one hand reverse causality, mothers between 23 and 34 years old are considered. They are more likely to finish middle school and they avoid medical risks for their children. On the other hand, to evaluate omitted variables, instruments are built. They consider the opening of primary and middle schools in the birth place of woman when she was 17 years old. Additionally, some mechanisms are analyzed to reduce child mortality. However, they do not appear significant for losing the first child but they are important for surviving an under five child. The gross effect of maternal education on child mortality is negative. This influence is significant for infant and child mortality.

---

<sup>59</sup> Universidad Metropolitana, Quito, Ecuador.