



RESILIENCE

A P-DEF PROJECT

Armed Conflict, Resilience, and Adolescent Childbearing in sub-Saharan Africa February 1 2016 to November 30 2018

In this project, we explore the hypothesis that women who are exposed to armed conflict at the time of their birth, age zero, have their first child at a younger age than those who were not exposed to armed conflict at age zero. Using data from the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Database and the Demographic and Health Surveys, we find that exposure to armed conflict at age zero leads to a reduction in the age at first birth by 0.3 years. Consistent with the resilience framework, the fertility response to the early life stressor of conflict is moderated by education. Of those women with no education, those who were exposed to war at age zero had their first birth 8.4 months younger on average than those with no education and not exposed to war at age zero. For women who completed high school or tertiary education, exposure to war at age zero had no effect on the age at first birth. We exclude women who are living in armed conflict at age 15 to separate out the fertility response to the contemporaneous shock of conflict, from the life course resilience effect that exposure to conflict early in life may trigger.

Childbearing as a resilience promoting factor

Research Partners

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**Armed conflict,
resilience,
adolescent
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