

Immediate Effects of Crime on Foot Traffic to Chicago Businesses

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Abstract: Previous research has shown that crime reduces consumer visits to nearby businesses but the focus has been on longer-term, month-over-month effects. This paper examines whether more immediate incidents contribute to these patterns. Using restricted-access foot traffic data from Chicago, this paper first replicates prior findings, showing that crimes within the past two weeks are associated with decreased foot traffic. We then analyze daily patterns and find that the most recent crimes matter most, although the effects vary depending on the overall local crime level. These results add nuance to our understanding of the temporal dynamics of consumer behavior following local crime.

Keywords: Foot Traffic, Consumer Behavior, Crime

JEL Classification Codes: K42, M21, R11, R12

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