In Ecuador, a new constitution came into force in 2008 aimed at promoting universal health coverage, affecting all hospitals managed by the Public Ministry of Health, while leaving remaining hospitals unaffected. This gave us a novel opportunity to examine the impact of health policy reform on public hospital admissions using a difference-in-difference approach. Exploiting data of 177 public hospitals between the period 2006 and 2009, we found that, after the reform, the increase in the demand of free medical services was mainly driven by patients that required specialized treatment.

Impact of Ecuadorian health reform on public hospital admissions

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