

Martin Rossi

Universidad de San Andres

“First-Day Criminal Recidivism”

Abstract

We find that on any given day the number of inmates released from incarceration significantly affects the number of offenses committed this day, and we name this “first-day recidivism.” Our estimates are robust to a variety of alternative specifications. We run a series of placebo experiments that further support our causal interpretation of the results. We also find evidence that an increase in the amount of money received by prisoners at the time of their release significantly decreases first-day recidivism. Finally, we explore the underlying reasons and we find evidence that suggests that first-day recidivism is driven by liquidity constraints.