Effects of Enhanced Legal Aid in Child Welfare: Evidence from a Randomized Trial of Mi Abogado

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Abstract

Children spend years in foster care, and there are concerns that bureaucratic hurdles contribute to unnecessarily long stays. In a novel approach to policy making, the Chilean government randomized the introduction of a program aimed at reducing these delays in order to evaluate its effects on child well-being. Mi Abogado (My Lawyer) provides legal aid and social services to foster children living in institutions. Using administrative data linked across government registries, we find the program reduced the length of stay in foster care with no increase in subsequent placement, resulting in savings that are substantially greater than the cost of the program. The program also led to a reduction in criminal justice involvement and an improvement in school attendance. The results demonstrate that investment in the quality of foster care services can improve child well-being.

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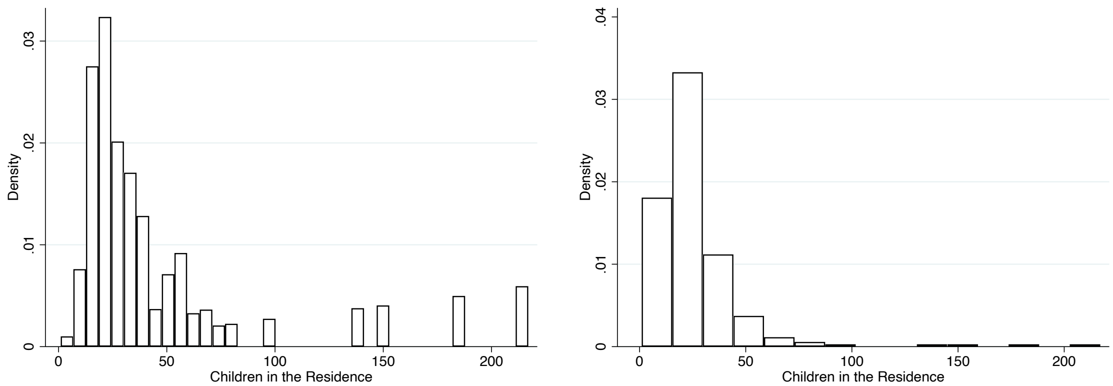
ONLINE APPENDIX

A Residences

Figure A.1: Number of Children in Each Residence

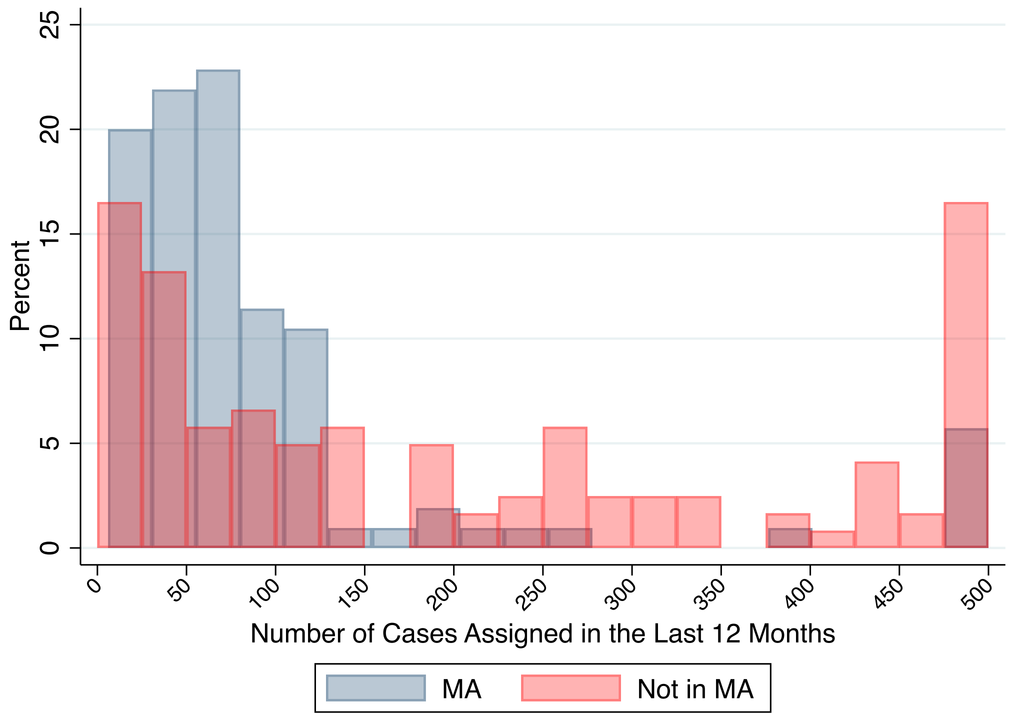


(a) By Child. (b) By Residence.

Note: This figure shows the distribution of the number of children in residence. Panel (a) is built using children as the unit of observation. Panel (b) is built using the residence as the unit of observation.

B Cases Assigned by Type of Lawyer

Figure B.1: Number of Cases Assigned in the Last 12 Months at Endline, by Lawyer Institution



Note: This figure shows the caseload distribution for lawyers from MA program and lawyers not in the MA program. Caseload is built with the number of new cases that lawyers have started working on in the past twelve months. This variable is truncated at 500 cases.

C Mi Abogado Detailed Processes

The following is a description of all the actions carried out by the interdisciplinary team of the Mi Abogado program.

- Diagnosis of the situation of children: Each child that enters the program is diagnosed, determining the urgency and prioritization of the legal decisions to be made. The diagnosis is an interdisciplinary exercise agreed between the psychosocial-judiciary triplet of the program. For this diagnosis, the interview or observation of the child within the first month from the acceptance of the appointment of curatorship ad litem is fundamental.
  - The elaboration of the legal strategy includes the psychosocial aspects raised by the specialist professionals: from the diagnosis of the judicial situation of the child carried out in the previous stage, the teams develop a legal strategy to represent the interests of the children by appointment of a curator ad litem The elaboration of the legal strategy will include the following sub-processes:
    * Strategy scheme: The objectives of legal representation must be established according to each case, defining the particular actions to be developed before the courts of justice.
    * Feedback of the legal strategy: The strategy must be fed back with the observations and contributions of the actors, people, and institutions that relate directly to each child.
    * Registration of the legal strategy: Information and background information that accounts for the strategy implemented, including the contributions of other actors, must be incorporated into each child's folder.
- Visits to the family of the child: According to what the legal strategy defines, the appropriate actions must be established and executed, if applicable, with the family or significant adults of the child, namely:
  - Communication with the family or significant adults about the legal strategy to be adopted and permanent feedback regarding the status of the cause, if applicable.
  - Collaborate in monitoring the work of the residence, or another agency or

program, in the strengthening of parental powers for decision-making regarding judicial actions.

  - Relationship with the community in which the child is inserted.

- Intersectoral coordination: Because situations of violation of rights generate effects beyond the strictly legal, teams must ensure that whoever is responsible for the child's care uses referral mechanisms to other relevant public services to cover the sum of the children's needs present. Similarly, suppose deficiencies are detected in this area. In that case, the Regional Coordination of the program will monitor that the child's representation team complies with the duty to represent the situation to SENAME or to whom it corresponds or make a presentation to the court, as required.

- Procedural processes: Corresponds to the execution of the legal strategy and essentially concentrates the set of actions that are carried out in a judicial process in the family courts, with jurisdiction in 10 criminal courts, superior courts of justice, and any other instance or headquarters in which the child is involved. As in the previous stages, all the actions carried out must be registered in each child's folder and be aimed at guaranteeing the exercise of children's rights recognized in the Convention.

- Follow-up of the child's situation once the situation of alternative care is over: The Technical Unit will verify that the regional teams of the program supervise the fulfillment of the sentences to guarantee adequate protection of the children. The duration of the follow-up must be extended for a minimum of three months until the practical completion of the sentence. The Social Worker will be in charge of the follow-up.

- Children exit the program: The triplet team evaluates if the objectives of the legal strategy have been met if the processing of the cases has been completed and if the follow-up period has been exhausted. Some causes of discharge are consistent with the end of alternative care, for example, successful adoption, return to the family of origin, completion of 18 years, etc.

- Referrals: The triplet in charge of the child's defense informs the residence of SENAME, the need for referral of the child, by findings made during the representation process, for example referrals to the health system or other programs of the SENAME Network.

C.1 Lawyers

Lawyers are responsible for processing cases before courts of law, especially family courts, courts with jurisdiction in criminal matters, civil courts, and higher courts of justice, related exclusively to the execution of the ”My Lawyer” program in charge of 60 children.

C.1.1 Functions

- Develop the legal strategy for each child who accesses the service in conjunction with the psycho-social duo.
- Manage the appropriate legal actions in all the matters in which the represented child might be involved.
- Responsible for the complete processing of the cases of children him/her represents.
- Attend all hearings in which the law courts summon him.
- Conduct in-person interviews or observations with the children, family, or whoever is involved.
- Exhaust all procedural options to obtain a judicial decision favorable to the child's interests he represents legally.
- Periodically inform, if appropriate, relatives or significant adults of the child's procedural status of the cases he represents.
- Periodically inform the child of the procedural status of the cases in which he is represented, according to his stage of evolutionary development.
- Participate in case analysis meetings.
- Provide support to professionals of complementary projects regarding the orientation, care, and protection of a child who must appear at a hearing and, in general, during the processing and management of the case.
- Keep track of all the procedures carried out and incorporate required verifiers.

C.1.2 Training and Experience

Qualified lawyer with desirable specialization in human rights, child and adolescent rights, criminal law, criminal procedural law, family law, or similar. With experience in litigation before the courts of the first instance of family, in ordinary and extraordinary procedures; before criminal courts of the first instance and before the superior courts of justice, with knowledge in prevention, promotion, protection, and restitution of rights, threat, and violation of rights and crimes committed against children. With experience in work, coordination, and articulation in the inter-institutional and intersectoral network. With skills for conflict resolution and interventions in crises. Desirable experience in interviews with children in situations of high complexity.

C.2 Social worker

Professional social worker, with training and experience in family law, the law of childhood and adolescence, child abuse and intersectoral management, with skills to work and link with children violated in their rights, and work in multidisciplinary teams. In addition, experience and knowledge are required regarding the family courts' functioning, the health and education network, and the SENAME Network and hired full time, in charge of 200 children.

C.2.1 Functions

- Responsible for delivering social support to the program team in problems associated with serious violations of rights.
- Socio-family care and follow-up, home visits, interviews, work in and with networks, as strictly required by the legal strategy, and in permanent coordination with professionals of complementary projects to the program, when appropriate.
- Conduct interviews or observations with the children, family, or others involved that correspond and must move if necessary. Permanent coordination with the network involved.
- Contribute to the elaboration of the diagnosis of the judicial situation and the development and execution of the legal strategy of each child. Record all the actions performed and incorporated required verifiers.

- Other functions specific to the work methodology and legal strategy adopted for the program's execution.

C.2.2 Training and Experience

A qualified social worker with specialized training in family and childhood matters, desirable training in criminal law or child abuse, experience working with children in violation of rights, and health and education networks. Desirable experience in interviews with children in situations of high complexity.

C.3 Psychologist

Professional psychologist with training and experience in matters of the law of family, the law of childhood, adolescence, and reparation of the damage, with skills to work and link with children whose rights have been violated, and work in interdisciplinary teams.

C.3.1 Functions

- Assess the child's mental health is entering the program by pre-existing reports.
- Assistance in emergencies or crises of the child in the context of the hearing, when appropriate.
- Contribute to elaborating the diagnosis of the judicial situation and legal strategy of each child.
- Permanent coordination with the network involved. Conduct interviews or observations with the children, family, or others involved that correspond and must move if necessary.
- Record all the actions performed and incorporated required verifiers.
- Other functions specific to the work methodology and legal strategy adopted by the program.

C.3.2 Training and Experience

Qualified psychologist with specialized training in family and childhood matters, desirable training in the field of criminal law to child abuse, and experience in working with children in situations of violation of rights.

D Randomization by Region

Table D.1: Randomization by Region

Region	N Total	N Treated	Share Treated
Bío Bío	378	28	0.07
Santiago	623	200	0.32
Maule	451	413	0.92
Valparaíso	419	42	0.10

Note: This table shows the number and share of children randomized to the treatment group across the four regions.

E Data Sources

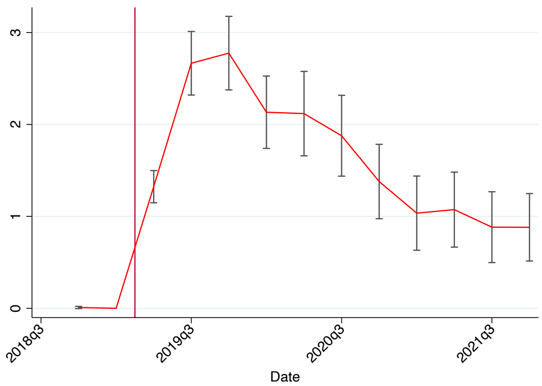
Table E.1: Data Description

Source	Variable	Period use	Obs
Judiciary Registry	Crimes	April 2014 - June 2021	1871
	Protection Cases	April 2014 - December 2020	1871
	Missing	April 2014 - June 2021	1871
	Victimization	April 2014 - June 2021	1871
	Allegations	April 2014 - June 2021	1871
	Writs	January 2010 - December 2020	1871
	Hearings	January 2010 - December 2020	1871
	Lawyer Assignment	2017 - 2021	1871
SENAME (SENAINFO)	Days living with family	January 2017 - June 2021	1871
	Days living in residence	January 2017 - June 2021	1871
	Permanency	January 2017 - June 2021	1871
	Age at entry in residence	January 2017 - June 2021	1871
	Allegations	2017 - 2021	1871
	Dispositions	March 2019 - Dicember 2019	1871
	Lengh of stay in residence	January 2017 - June 2021	1871
	Delay in School	2017 - 2019	1871
Mi Abogado	Participation in Mi Abogado program	October 2018 - December 2020	1871
	Days in Mi Abogado program	October 2018 - December 2020	1871
	Days with non Mi Abogado Lawyer	October 2018 - December 2020	1871
	Mi Abogado processes	October 2019 - December 2021	1871
Ministry of Education	Grades	2018 - 2019	1222
	School Attendance	March 2017 - Dicember 2019	1871

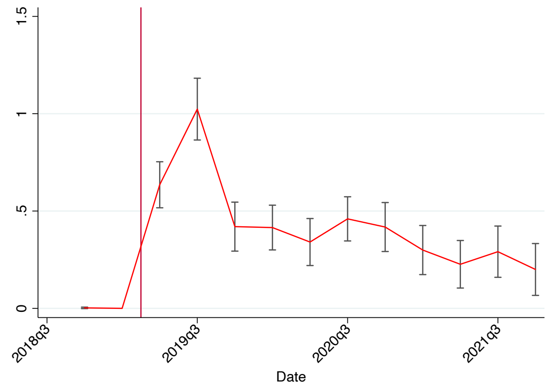
Note: This table shows the sources of information used to construct each variable, the period available for each set of information, and the number of observations (children) that each source includes.

F Process Analysis

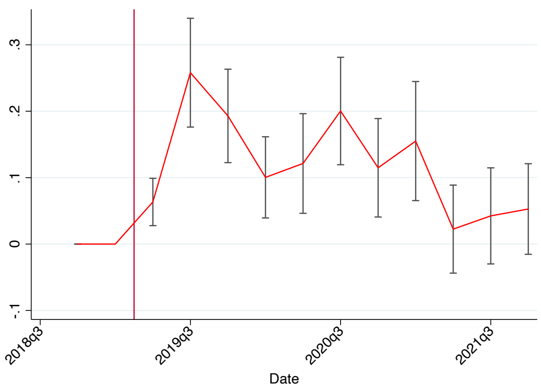
Figure F.1: Mi Abogado Processes by type



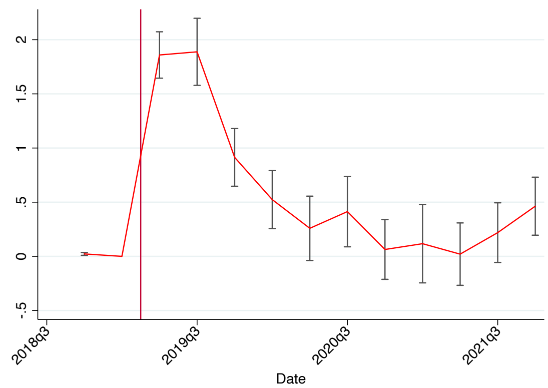
(a) Documentary Work



(b) Interacting with Child



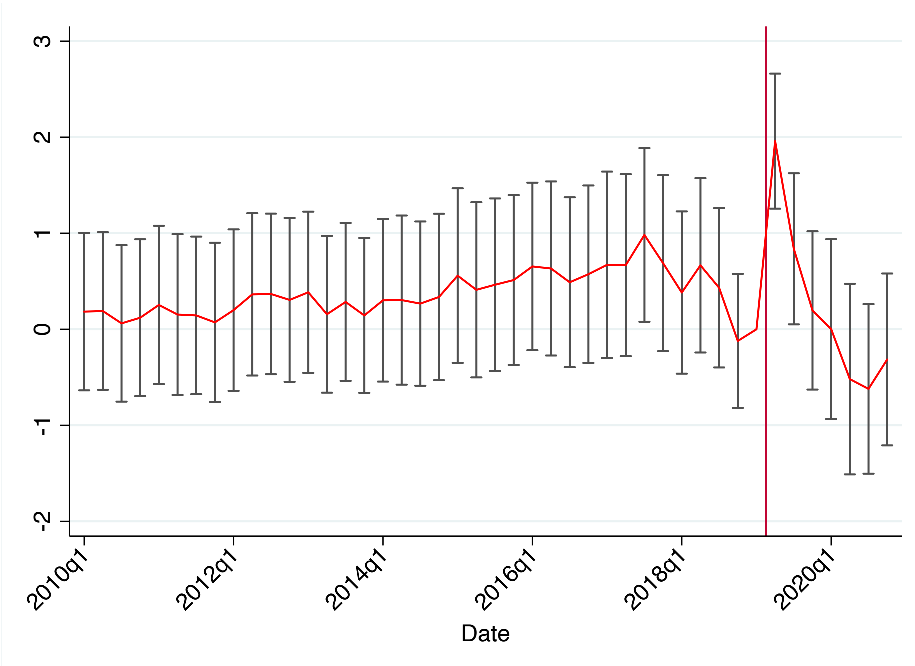
(c) Interacting with Family



(d) Interacting with Residence Staff

Note: This figure shows, for each quarter, the effect of offering the Mi Abogado program across four different variables related to legal-aid and case management, estimated from daily data. Each regression includes one indicator for each period (minus the base, i.e., T-1 indicators) and an additional indicator for each period interacted with the treatment. We control for sex, region of residence and age group. Confidence intervals are calculated using standard errors clustered at the child level. The vertical line shows the time of randomization.

Figure F.2: Impacts on Quarterly Writs Submitted



Note: This figure shows, for each quarter, the effect of the Mi Abogado program in the number of writs sent, estimated from daily data. Each regression includes one indicator for each period (minus the base, i.e., T-1 indicators) and an additional indicator for each period interacted with the treatment. We control for sex, region of residence and age group. Confidence intervals are calculated using standard errors clustered at the child level. The vertical line shows the time of randomization.

G Heterogeneous Treatment Effects

Table G.1: Treatment effects by subgroups

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dependent Variable:	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.
Heterogeneity Variable:	School Delay	Siblings	Days in Residence	Age When First in Residence
Treatment x Post	0.075	0.060	0.044	0.076
	(0.026)***	(0.028)**	(0.030)	(0.024)***
Treatment Group	-0.020	-0.008	0.037	-0.040
	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.017)**	(0.013)***
Post Randomization	0.244	0.216	0.260	0.169
	(0.015)***	(0.015)***	(0.016)***	(0.015)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post	-0.038	0.022	-0.069	0.107
	(0.022)*	(0.022)	(0.022)***	(0.022)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post x Treatment	-0.018	0.010	0.025	-0.007
	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.038)	(0.038)
Treatment x Heterogeneity Variable	0.004	-0.023	-0.085	0.042
	(0.011)	(0.010)**	(0.014)***	(0.013)***
N	31,579	31,579	31,579	31,579
Control Group Mean for Hetero. Var. = 1	0.256	0.284	0.238	0.321

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows effects on the likelihood that children to return to live with family within different heterogeneous subgroups: school delay, amount of siblings, time in residence prior to randomization, and age when first in residence. Each estimation uses two groups formed from a heterogeneous variable that splits the sample in two. The cutoff point for the groups is the median within that variable. Control Group Mean Hetero. Var. = 1 indicates the mean in the post-period for the control group within the group that has heterogeneity variable equal to 1. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

Table G.2: Treatment effects by subgroups

Dependent Variable:	(1) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	(2) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	(3) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	(4) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.
Heterogeneity Variable:	Region	Abuse	Gender	Younger than 12
Treatment x Post	0.042	0.074	0.097	0.067
	(0.034)	(0.026)***	(0.028)***	(0.023)***
Treatment Group	-0.008	-0.011	-0.021	-0.014
	(0.011)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.013)
Post Randomization	0.223	0.245	0.184	0.239
	(0.019)***	(0.014)***	(0.016)***	(0.013)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post	0.005	-0.051	0.077	-0.047
	(0.024)	(0.022)**	(0.022)***	(0.024)*
Heterogeneity Variable x Post x Treatment	0.036	-0.001	-0.053	0.010
	(0.041)	(0.037)	(0.038)	(0.039)
Treatment x Heterogeneity Variable	-0.014	-0.024	0.002	-0.025
	(0.024)	(0.009)**	(0.013)	(0.014)*
N	31,579	31,579	31,579	31,579
Control Group Mean for Hetero. Var. = 1	0.278	0.241	0.307	0.237

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows effects on the likelihood that children to return to live with family within different heterogeneous subgroups: region, abuse, gender, and age. Each estimation uses two groups from a heterogeneous variable that splits the sample in two. For region, the heterogeneity variable equals zero if the child is from Region Metropolitana and one if the child is from any other region. For abuse, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child has at least one abuse allegation that led to a SENAME stay. For gender, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child is female. For “Younger than 12”, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child is 12 or younger at the randomization date. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

Table G.3: Treatment effects by subgroups

Dependent Variable:	(1) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(2) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(3) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(4) Crimes Reports/Qtr.
Heterogeneity Variable:	School Delay	Siblings	Days in Residence	Age When First in Residence
Treatment x Post	-0.001	-0.050	-0.067	0.019
	(0.008)	(0.018)***	(0.020)***	(0.009)**
Treatment Group	-0.001	0.015	0.029	-0.008
	(0.009)	(0.013)	(0.015)**	(0.008)
Post Randomization	0.024	0.112	0.128	0.009
	(0.006)***	(0.014)***	(0.016)***	(0.007)
Heterogeneity Variable x Post	0.140	-0.057	-0.080	0.154
	(0.020)***	(0.018)***	(0.020)***	(0.019)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post x Treatment	-0.065	0.048	0.072	-0.089
	(0.027)**	(0.024)**	(0.026)***	(0.025)***
Treatment x Heterogeneity Variable	0.017	-0.012	-0.037	0.035
	(0.010)*	(0.009)	(0.011)***	(0.011)***
N	58,001	58,001	58,001	58,001
Control Group Mean for Hetero. Var. = 1	0.199	0.079	0.084	0.197

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows effects on crime reports within different heterogeneous subgroups: school delay, amount of siblings, time in residence prior to randomization, and age when first in residence. Each estimation uses two groups formed from a heterogeneous variable that splits the sample in two. The cutoff point for the groups is the median within that variable. Control Group Mean Hetero. Var. = 1 indicates the mean in the post-period for the control group within the group that has heterogeneity variable equal to 1. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

Table G.4: Treatment effects by subgroups

Dependent Variable:	(1) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(2) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(3) Crimes Reports/Qtr.	(4) Crimes Reports/Qtr.
Heterogeneity Variable:	Region	Abuse	Gender	Younger than 12
Treatment x Post	-0.004	-0.031	-0.058	-0.038
	(0.022)	(0.017)*	(0.026)**	(0.018)**
Treatment Group	0.006	0.018	0.000	0.009
	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Post Randomization	0.068	0.102	0.149	0.125
	(0.017)***	(0.011)***	(0.019)***	(0.013)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post	0.034	-0.034	-0.106	-0.122
	(0.020)*	(0.021)	(0.020)***	(0.013)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post x Treatment	-0.043	0.004	0.048	0.036
	(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.027)*	(0.018)**
Treatment x Heterogeneity Variable	0.001	-0.021	0.016	-0.004
	(0.021)	(0.009)**	(0.013)	(0.009)
N	58,001	58,001	58,001	58,001
Control Group Mean for Hetero. Var. = 1	0.129	0.083	0.059	0.004

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows effects on crime reports within different heterogeneous subgroups: region, abuse, gender, and age. Each estimation uses two groups from a heterogeneous variable that splits the sample in two. For region, the heterogeneity variable equals zero if the child is from Region Metropolitana and one if the child is from any other region. For abuse, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child has at least one abuse allegation that led to a SENAME stay. For gender, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child is female. For "Younger than 12", the heterogeneity variable equals one if the child is 12 or younger at the randomization date. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

Table G.5: Treatment effects by predicted living-with-family and predicted crime

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dependent Variable:	Crime Reports/Qtr.	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	Crime Reports/Qtr.	Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.
Heterogeneity Variable:	Predicted Crime	Predicted Crime	Predicted Permanency	Predicted Permanency
Treatment x Post	-0.002	0.068	-0.034	0.032
	(0.007)	(0.025)***	(0.018)*	(0.024)
Treatment Group	0.000	-0.044	-0.014	-0.017
	(0.008)	(0.013)***	(0.009)	(0.012)
Post Randomization	0.019	0.208	0.078	0.170
	(0.006)***	(0.016)***	(0.015)***	(0.014)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post	0.131	0.034	0.021	0.126
	(0.018)***	(0.023)	(0.021)	(0.022)***
Heterogeneity Variable x Post x Treatmeant	-0.055	0.003	-0.009	0.028
	(0.025)**	(0.038)	(0.026)	(0.036)
Treatment x Heterogeneity Variable	0.015	0.049	0.049	0.022
	(0.013)	(0.013)***	(0.012)***	(0.010)**
Female	-0.045	0.050	-0.067	0.012
	(0.009)***	(0.012)***	(0.009)***	(0.011)
N	58,001	31,579	58,001	31,579
Control Group Mean for Hetero. Var. = 1	0.200	0.283	0.126	0.345

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows effects on the crime-report and living-with-family outcomes for different heterogeneous subgroups: predicted crime and predicted living-with-family. These predictions used a one-year timeframe and the observable characteristics shown in Table 1. Each estimation uses two groups from a heterogeneous variable that splits the sample in two. For predicted crime, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the predicted value of reported crimes is greater than the median and zero otherwise. For predicted permanency, the heterogeneity variable equals one if the predicted value of days living with family is greater than the median and zero otherwise. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

H Additional Robustness Checks

H.1 Robustness to Adding Controls

Table H.1: Controls vs No Controls

Dependent Variable:	(1) Days exposed to Mi Abogado/Qtr.	(2) Days exposed to Mi Abogado/Qtr.	(3) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	(4) Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr.	(5) Crime Reports/Qtr.	(6) Crime Reports/Qtr.
Treatment x Post	18.545	18.545	0.066	0.066	-0.036	-0.036
	(1.782)***	(1.783)***	(0.021)***	(0.021)***	(0.012)***	(0.012)***
Treatment Group	-1.220	-1.043	-0.025	-0.020	0.010	0.010
	(1.080)	(1.086)	(0.021)	(0.020)	(0.012)	(0.011)
Post Randomization	33.328	33.328	0.124	0.124	0.088	0.088
	(0.979)***	(0.980)***	(0.013)***	(0.013)***	(0.010)***	(0.010)***
N	24,323	24,323	22,452	22,452	58,001	58,001
N of children	1,871	1,871	1,871	1,871	1,871	1,871
N Control Group	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188
Control Group Mean	33.720	33.720	0.272	0.272	0.118	0.118
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table reports results for the engagement, living-with-family, and crime results with and without additional controls. All models include strata indicators. The additional controls include: number of siblings, delay in schooling, age at randomization, indicators for type of allegation: sexual abuse, physical abuse and/or neglect, days in residence prior to randomization, and age when first in residence. Standard errors are clustered at the child level. Control Group Mean indicates the mean in the post-period.

H.2 Second Randomization

Table H.2: Robustness Check: Not Using Second Randomization Round

Dependent Variable:	(1) Participation /Qtr. Using replacements	(2) Participation /Qtr. Not using replacements	(3) Permanency /Qtr. Using replacements	(4) Permanency /Qtr. Not using replacements	(5) Crimes /Qtr. Using replacements	(6) Crimes /Qtr. Not using replacements
Treatment x Post	18.545	18.749	0.058	0.057	-0.036	-0.038
	(1.782)***	(1.829)***	(0.017)***	(0.018)***	(0.012)***	(0.013)***
Treatment Group	-1.220	-1.303	-0.016	-0.016	0.010	0.011
	(1.080)	(1.109)	(0.017)	(0.018)	(0.012)	(0.012)
Post Randomization	33.328	33.328	0.218	0.218	0.088	0.088
	(0.979)***	(0.979)***	(0.010)***	(0.010)***	(0.010)***	(0.010)***
N	24,323	23,660	22,323	21,712	58,001	56,420
Control Group Mean	33.720	33.720	0.272	0.272	0.118	0.118
N of children	1,871	1,820	1,871	1,820	1,871	1,820
N Control Group	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table compares two different sets of estimates for our main outcomes. Columns 1, 3, and 5 show the estimators or our main results. Columns 2, 4, and 6 show the estimators when we run the same regressions but without those randomized to enroll in the program in May 2019. A group of 51 children that were initially not drawn into the treated group on the randomization date were later incorporated into this group because the program expanded. For all other results shown in the paper, these newly-randomized subjects are treated as part of the treated group. Control Group Mean indicates the mean in the post-period.

H.3 Weighting Regression Estimates by the Inverse of the Treatment Variance

Table H.3: Living-with-family and Crime Reports with region variance weights

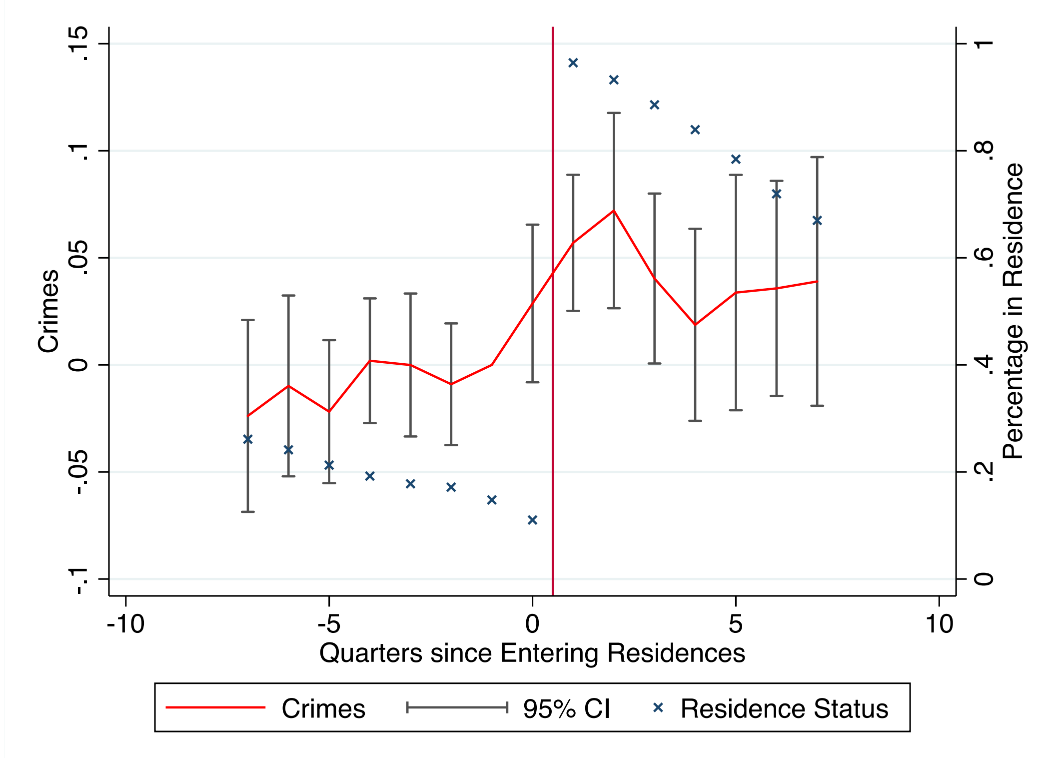
	(1) Dependent Variable: Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr. No Weights	(2) Dependent Variable: Ever Living w/ Family/Qtr. Region Variance Weights	(3) Dependent Variable: Crime Reports/Qtr. No Weights	(4) Dependent Variable: Crime Reports/Qtr. Region Variance Weights
Treatment x Post	0.066	0.069	-0.032	-0.038
	(0.019)***	(0.019)***	(0.012)***	(0.012)***
Treatment Group	-0.020	-0.019	0.009	0.011
	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.011)	(0.011)
Post Randomization	0.194	0.194	0.089	0.094
	(0.012)***	(0.012)***	(0.009)***	(0.009)***
N	31,579	31,579	58,001	58,001
Control Group Mean	0.254	0.254	0.116	0.116
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows the main estimates with and without weighting to take into account the variance in the propensity for treatment across the regional strata as described in the text. In particular, Columns (2) and (4) were calculated by weighting by the inverse of the variance of the treatment effect in each region. Control Group Mean indicates the mean in the post-period. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

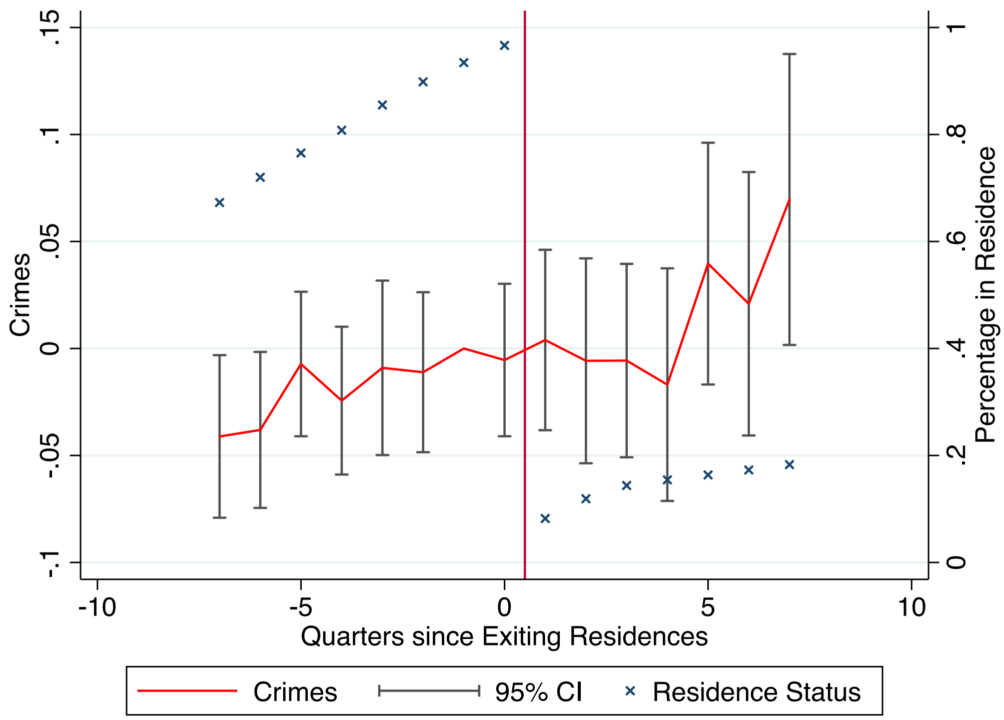
I Exploring Mechanisms

Figure I.1: Event Study on Entering Residences



This chart shows an event study for crime reports before and after entry into a residence. The omitted period is two quarters before entering residence, to test whether crime reports precipitate entry. The vertical line is the moment of entering residences. The estimates are obtained from a regression of crime reports on the strata, period indicators, interactions between the periods and the treatment status, and age indicators (to control for the increase in crime that comes with age). Confidence intervals are calculated using standard errors clustered at the child level.

Figure I.2: Event Study on Exiting Residences



This chart shows an event study for crime reports before and after entry into a residence. The omitted period is two quarters before exiting residence, to test whether crime reports are changing just prior to exit. The vertical line is the moment of entering residences. The estimates are obtained from a regression of crime reports on the strata, period indicators, interactions between the periods and the treatment status, and age indicators (to control for the increase in crime that comes with age). Confidence intervals are calculated using standard errors clustered at the child level.

Table I.1: Residences as a Mediator

Dependent Variable:	(1) Crime Reports/Qtr. Usual Estimate	(2) Crime Reports/Qtr. Control for Residences	(3) School Attendance/Qtr. Usual Estimate	(4) School Attendance/Qtr. Control for Residences
Treatment x Post	-.0362	-.0393	.0291	.034
	(.0125)***	(.0142)***	(.0127)**	(.0128)***
Treatment Group	.00988	.0191	-.00295	-.00536
	(.0116)	(.022)	(.0165)	(.0158)
Post Randomization	.088	.0577	-.103	-.114
	(.00955)***	(.00947)***	(.00808)***	(.00802)***
In Residence		-.0211		.123
		(.00771)***		(.00984)***
N	58,001	35,549	22,452	22,452
N of children	1,871	1,871	1,871	1,871
N Control Group	1,188	1,188	1,188	1,188
Control Group Mean	0.118	0.118	0.580	0.580

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$

Note: This table shows the effect of Mi Abogado program on crime reports and school attendance with and without controlling for days in residence. Control Group Mean indicates the mean in the post-period. Standard errors are clustered at the child level.

J Participation in the program

J.1 Participation due to treatment status: Compliers

Table J.1: Compliers by control groups Q1 2020

	Column 1	Column 2	Ratio	P[X=x] Col. 1	Mean C1	Mean C2	Obs.
Number of Siblings	65.291	85.430	0.764	0.49	0.00	3.06	1,871
	(11.845)	(12.455)					
Delay in Schooling (Years)	82.201	68.383	1.202	0.54	-0.12	4.39	1,871
	(12.130)	(12.131)					
Time in Residence	66.729	82.668	0.807	0.50	0.85	2.22	1,871
	(12.446)	(11.707)					
Age First Entry in Residence	88.237	58.414	1.511	0.50	7.52	13.78	1,871
	(12.154)	(11.956)					
Age at Randomization	82.693	68.330	1.210	0.50	10.82	16.23	1,871
	(12.585)	(11.358)					
Gender (Column 2 = Girl)	58.837	87.905	0.669	0.43	0.00	1.00	1,871
	(13.369)	(11.105)					
Predicted Permanency	55.798	92.525	0.603	0.50	1.14	1.94	1,871
	(12.643)	(11.558)					
Predicted Crimes	85.694	66.699	1.285	0.50	-0.05	1.29	1,871
	(12.736)	(11.361)					
		Beta		Compliers			Obs.
Full Sample		75.223		929			1871
		(8.570)					

Note: This table is built using the whole sample of children for Q1 2020. The sample is separated into two groups for each control variable. Column 1 is the coefficient for treatment when we regress "Days in the program" against treatment and strata variables using the children below the median in that control (or 0 if it is a dummy variable). Column 2 is the same coefficient but uses children above the median (or 1 if it is a dummy variable). P[X=x] Col. 1 is the result of the total number of children in the below group divided by the total sample of observations. Mean C1 is the mean of the heterogeneity variable for Column 1 individuals. Mean C2 is analogous for Column 2. The last row shows the coefficient for treatment when we use the whole sample and the number of compliers in the full sample

Table J.2: Compliers by control groups Q1 2021

	Column 1	Column 2	Ratio	P[X=x] Col. 1	Mean C1	Mean C2	Obs.
Number of Siblings	96.565	134.963	0.715	0.49	0.00	3.06	1,871
	(25.084)	(26.182)					
Delay in Schooling (Years)	122.459	112.565	1.088	0.54	-0.12	4.39	1,871
	(25.197)	(26.062)					
Time in Residence	100.874	129.333	0.780	0.50	0.85	2.22	1,871
	(26.240)	(24.649)					
Age First Entry in Residence	131.538	92.492	1.422	0.50	7.52	13.78	1,871
	(24.425)	(26.469)					
Age at Randomization	121.174	113.670	1.066	0.50	10.82	16.23	1,871
	(25.084)	(25.360)					
Gender (Column 2 = Girl)	76.217	147.395	0.517	0.43	0.00	1.00	1,871
	(27.686)	(23.775)					
Predicted Permanency	76.823	151.215	0.508	0.50	1.14	1.94	1,871
	(26.626)	(24.318)					
Predicted Crimes	126.044	110.934	1.136	0.50	-0.05	1.29	1,871
	(25.712)	(24.909)					
		Beta		Compliers			Obs.
Full Sample		116.368		1100			1871
		(18.094)					

Note: This table is built using the whole sample of children for Q1 2021. The sample is separated into two groups for each control variable. Column 1 is the coefficient for treatment when we regress ”Days in the program” against treatment and strata variables using the children below the median in that control (or 0 if it is a dummy variable). Column 2 is the same coefficient but uses children above the median (or 1 if it is a dummy variable). P[X=x] Col. 1 is the result of the total number of children in the below group divided by the total sample of observations. Mean C1 is the mean of the heterogeneity variable for Column 1 individuals. Mean C2 is analogous for Column 2. The last row shows the coefficient for treatment when we use the whole sample and the number of compliers in the full sample.

K Cost-Benefit Analysis with Crime Outcomes

Table K.1: Cost Benefit Analysis

	Mean T	Mean C	Dif	P-Value	Costs	DIF*Costs
A. Lawyer Costs						
Days w/ MA Lawyer	340.63	234.89	105.74	0.00	4.99	527.57
Days w/ Non-MA Lawyer	92.42	182.00	-89.57	0.00	2.73	-244.41
B. Residence Costs						
Days in residence (public)	126.37	131.98	-5.61	0.46	67.27	-377.62
Days in residence (nonprofit)	321.83	351.29	-29.46	0.07	28.35	-835.18
C. Family Foster Care Costs						
Days in care (nonprofit)	13.06	7.66	5.41	0.28	13.94	75.42
Total SENAME						-854.22
D. Crime						
Property	0.23	0.35	-0.12	0.00	629.98	-75.61
Violent	0.22	0.29	-0.07	0.01	23,464.14	-1,699.46
Substance	0.02	0.02	-0.00	0.67	2,083.24	-6.97
Total Criminal Justice						-1,782.04
Total						-2,636.26

Note: Estimates are on a per-child basis, and the observation period is 721 days. Costs are calculated in 2022 US dollars.