

# Education and Crime: Individual Measures of the Causal Relationship

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## Abstract

We measure the causal relationship between individual educational attainment and criminal participation. We consider the endogeneity problems which plague this relationship. We solve these by instrumenting obtaining a qualification by differences in timing of birth of students and debate the validity of the instrument. We use a unique database matching a large survey of Dutch youths to administrative data on arrests and educational attainment. We observe that relatively older students are more likely to leave secondary school without a valid degree. We find that secondary school qualification reduces the probability of arrest after leaving school by about a third.