

Title: Immigrant population and inequalities in health and access to health care in the EU

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Abstract:

The paper is a comparative analysis at E.U. level of the determinants of access to health care services of immigrants based on the use of longitudinal data. Recent previous analyses of inequalities in immigrant access to health care in different EU countries lack of comparability being based on single countries data (see e.g., for Italy Devillanova et al., 2008; for Spain, Jimenez et al., 2008), mostly cross-section. A main limitation of cross-sectional studies is that they do not allow to distinguish between life cycle or longitudinal changes and changes due to different cohorts. Other comparative studies at OECD and EU level uses panel data in analysing income-related equity in access to health care but do not consider immigrant status as a determinant for inequalities in access to health care (see van Doorslaer et al, 2004). Our empirical analysis uses the waves of the Eurostat EU-SILC (2004-2006) and ECHP (1996-2001) panel data and tests for the contribution of immigrant status on income related horizontal inequities in access to health care services in the EU countries, such as dental visits and doctor visits (for the methodology see van Doorslaer et al, 2004). Following Zeynep et al. (2008) we also examine the impact of different health system characteristics on socio-economic inequalities in health care access. The existing income-related inequities are discussed on the light of different attitudes and policies of countries towards immigration.

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