

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2018

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF BODY MASS AND INCOME-BASED INEQUALITY OF YOUTH OBESITY IN AUSTRALIA

Presenter: Alfredo Paloyo, University of Wollongong
Date: Wednesday, 8th August 2018
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract

Using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia dataset, we analyze the intergenerational mobility of body mass and to investigate the magnitude and drivers of income-based inequality of youth obesity. Drawing insights from household production theory, fixed effects are used to estimate the influence that permanent factors and time-varying environment make to the intergenerational transmission of body mass. A concentration index is estimated and decomposed to assess the magnitude and drivers of income-based inequality of adolescent obesity. Substantial evidence for intergenerational immobility of body mass is found. Genetics and permanent environment account for 84% of this intergenerational relationship. Time-varying influences are found to be a significant transmission pathway for only the lowest SES subgroups. The concentration index highlights an income-based youth obesity inequality of -0.1225 , and that this is increasing over time. Decomposition analysis shows that one of the greatest contributors to inequality in youth obesity rates is maternal obesity, indicating that the strong heritability of body mass in Australia is assisting in perpetuating income-based inequality of youth obesity rates.

Presenter

Alfredo R. Paloyo is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Accounting, Economics, and Finance of the University of Wollongong in Australia. He received his Bachelor of Science (2002), *cum laude*, and Master of Arts (2005) in Economics from the University of the Philippines School of Economics. He then obtained a European Master in Law and Economics (LL.M., 2007) with the highest distinction, jointly awarded by the Erasmus University of Rotterdam (Netherlands), the University of Hamburg (Germany), and the University of Bologna (Italy).

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