

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2019

Is it my parents or society? Exploring the intergenerational persistence of health and Income over time using data from the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society Survey (1991-2016)

Presenter: Dr Heather Brown
Date: Wednesday 10 April 2019
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Venue: Room H.921 Caulfield campus



Abstract

There is a lack of evidence on the intergenerational persistence of physical and mental health and if and how this relates to the intergenerational correlation in income. In this paper, we utilise data from the British Household Panel Survey (1991-2008) and Understanding Society Survey (2009-2016) to investigate intergenerational inequalities in physical health measured using self-assessed health and mental health measured using the GHQ and income measured using log of hourly wage. A latent health and income variable is created to generate lifetime health and income variables to reduce biases from comparing outcomes in two generations. We investigate using different number of data points to create this latent variable and how that impacts on the observed intergenerational correlation in health and income. We explore the intergenerational correlation across different quintiles to determine if the highest and lowest quintiles have fared better or worse over time. Preliminary results show that the intergenerational correlation in health has been decreasing over time but the intergenerational association in income is increasing over time. Using a larger number of data points to create a latent health and income variable strengthens the observed intergenerational correlation. This suggests that fewer data points may not be capturing the true lifetime cycle.

Presenter

Heather Brown is a Senior Lecturer in Health Economics at Newcastle University, UK. My research interests are in applied econometrics with a focus on understanding the relationship between health behaviours and outcomes and inequalities I have a particular interest in understanding health behaviours within families and across generations. I currently hold a policy fellowship funded by the Understanding Society survey to investigate the intergenerational persistence in poverty and health. I work regularly with policy and practice partners in local government and Public Health England.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

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