

Centre For Health Economics Seminar Series 2017

SCREENING DISABILITY INSURANCE APPLICATIONS AND TARGETING

Presenter: Maarten Lindeboom, VU Amsterdam
Date: Wednesday 27 September 2017
Time: 12.00pm -1.00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
Centre for Health Economics



Abstract

We estimate the impact of stricter screening of Disability Insurance (DI) applications on DI applications and DI awards, as well as on compositional changes in ex-ante health of DI applicants and long-term employment and health outcomes of DI applicants and non-applicants. We use exogenous variation induced by a field experiment where we directly controlled the screening stringency of the caseworkers. In two out of 26 regions in the Netherlands, caseworkers at the local offices of the National Social Insurance Institute (NSII) were instructed to screen reintegration reports considerably more strictly than elsewhere. Using a difference-in-differences strategy, we examine the extent to which – and among whom – screening stringency influences DI application and award rates. Our results show that the decline in DI applications and DI (unconditional) awards primarily comes from able individuals, which suggests that targeting efficiency improves. In particular, we observe strong changes in the composition of DI applicants and recipients in response to changes in screening stringency. We infer from longer run (up to 7 years) mortality and labour-market outcomes of non-applicants whether increased stringency may induce truly disabled individuals not to apply, but find no evidence of such perverse self-screening.

Presenter

Maarten Lindeboom is Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at VU University Amsterdam. He studied econometrics at Free University of Amsterdam and graduated in 1986. He received his Ph.D. at Leiden University in 1992. Maarten held positions at Leiden University and at Tilburg University. His research interests are Health and Labor economics, in particular issues related to Health and Work, The Measurement of Health and The Determinants of Later Life Mortality. Among others he has published in American Economic Review the Economic Journal, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Demography, Journal of the European Economic Association Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (series A & B), Journal of Population Economics and Journal of Human Resources.

Maarten Lindeboom joined IZA as a research fellow in February 1999.

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