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Economy and health

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PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the PhD thesis

ECONOMY AND HEALTH

Essays on early-life conditions, health, and health insurance

by Laura Viluma

1. Being born during an economic downturn has a negative effect on infant health and adult health including risk of mortality. This underlines the long-term benefits of policies that help young children and pregnant women during economic hardship and can be seen as a justification for macroeconomic stabilization policies. (Chapters 2 and 3)
2. Since infant health has been shown to have long-term impact on a host of outcomes later in life, supporting vulnerable mothers during pregnancy could have long-term impact on health and socio-economic status of their children. (Chapter 2)
3. It seems that both, men and women, are affected by the economic conditions at birth, although, possibly, at different points in their lives and in different ways. (Chapters 2,3,4)
4. Understanding the mechanisms of how the early life exposure to adverse conditions leaves a permanent biological imprint on the body and affects the subsequent behaviors may help to explain the socio-economic inequalities in health. (Chapters 2,3,4)
5. Economic downturns can cause stress for pregnant women that is strong enough to set off health effects in their babies. (Chapter 4)
6. “The emphasis on adult lifestyle as the cause of these [chronic] diseases is being increasingly challenged by research showing that the sources of risk may lie much earlier in life, or even in previous generations.” (Kuh and Hardy, 2004)
7. Even though a voluntary deductible creates incentives for adverse (or in the case of mental health care – advantageous) selection, it is an effective tool to reduce moral hazard in health care utilization in the Netherlands. (Chapter 5)
8. The decision to have any doctor’s visits (extensive margin) seems to be more sensitive to economic incentives than the number of visits (intensive margin). (Chapter 5)
9. “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won't work.” (Thomas A. Edison)