

L1062 Coursework Assignment, 2021

This assignment counts for 20% of the module mark. Please read the guidelines for the assignment.

Use the dataset `healthcare_b.dta`, available from the module Canvas site. The dataset contains a balanced panel of German individuals and their health care use. The dataset has the following variables

ID = person - identification number
FEMALE = female = 1; male = 0
YEAR = calendar year of the observation
AGE = age in years
AGESQ = age squared.
HSAT = health satisfaction, coded 0 (low) - 10 (high)
HANDDUM = handicapped = 1; otherwise = 0
HANDPER = degree of handicap in percent (0 - 100)
HHNINC = household nominal monthly net income in German marks / 10000
HHKIDS = children under age 16 in the household = 1; otherwise = 0
EDUC = years of schooling
MARRIED = married = 1; otherwise = 0
WORKING = employed = 1; otherwise = 0
BLUEC = blue collar employee = 1; otherwise = 0
WHITEC = white collar employee = 1; otherwise = 0
SELF = self employed = 1; otherwise = 0
BEAMT = civil servant = 1; otherwise = 0
DOCVIS = number of doctor visits in last three months
HOSPVIS = number of hospital visits in last calendar year
DOCTOR = dummy variable = 1 if *DOCVIS* > 0, 0 otherwise.
HOSPITAL = dummy variable = 1 if *HOSPVIS* > 0, 0 otherwise.
PUBLIC = insured in public health insurance = 1; otherwise = 0
ADDON = insured by add-on insurance = 1; otherwise = 0

a) Use the dataset to assess how much visits to the doctor over the last three months is affected by having children under 16 in the household (variable *HHKIDS*). Estimate a simple model using *DOCVIS* as the dependent variable and apply individual fixed effects. Include the following as controls: *AGE*, *AGESQ*, *MARRIED*, *WORKING*, *LINC* and *ADDON*. Generate *LINC* by taking a natural logarithm of *HHNINC*. Interpret your results for *HHKIDS*. [Notes: Some people visit the doctor a lot, but do not remove outliers. For fixed effects estimation, use either ‘*areg*’ or ‘*xtreg*’ command] [30 marks]

b) Estimate the same model as in a), but use pooled OLS instead of individual fixed effects. Interpret the estimated coefficient for *HHKIDS* in this model. Give an explanation why the results differ between OLS and fixed effects, and state which one should be preferred, and why. [40 marks]

c) Modify the estimation in a) to test whether women’s visits to doctor are more or less affected by children in the household, than that of men. Interpret the result. [30 marks]