



Producción de servicios sanitarios: ¿más es mejor?

XXVI JORNADAS DE ECONOMÍA DE LA SALUD

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Titulo

Exploring health related Social Welfare Function properties: an empirical examination

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Palabras Clave

Equality-efficiency trade-off in health, health related social welfare function properties

Introducción

The social welfare function (SWF) has been used in the economics literature, to study trade-offs between equality and efficiency. Conventional SWFs are characterised by certain properties and features a SWF is said to have, building \"well-behaved\" social indifference contours: monotonicity, distribution neutrality and symmetry and self-motivated preferences, amongst others. The present research aims to explore empirically the satisfaction of such SWF properties in the health sector.

Objetivo

To explore empirically the satisfaction of conventional social welfare function properties in the health sector.

Metodos

A survey of the Spanish general public (N=1200) is undertaken to estimate public preferences regarding health inequalities across socio-economic groups, relative to efficiency in health. Questionnaires are specifically designed to explore further previous findings related to violation of the monotonicity principle in public preferences paying particular attention to the potential effect of status quo bias. Questionnaire design also aims to highlight the debate about the characteristics and shape of social indifference curves regarding distribution neutrality and symmetry.

Resultados

About half of respondents show non-monotonic preferences; the hypothesis of status quo bias (as possible explanation of non-monotonicity) is rejected. Half of respondents show symmetry in their preferences. Just 10% of respondents show distribution neutrality in their preferences.

Conclusiones



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Previous findings relating violation of monotonicity are not rejected and status quo bias can not explain this pattern. In addition, symmetry is also satisfied by half of respondents. No evidence of distribution neutrality is found.