

## Gender discrimination in health: Dynamic results from SHARE

Sara Pinillos Franco<sup>a</sup>, David Cantarero Prieto<sup>bc</sup> and Javier Lera Torres<sup>c</sup>

*a Dpt. de Análisis Económico: Teoría Económica e Historia Económica, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Cantoblanco. Madrid 28049, Spain*

*b Department of Economics – Health Economics Research Group, University of Cantabria. Av. de los Castros s/n., 39005, Santander (Cantabria), Spain*

*c Health Economics and Health Service Management Research Group, IDIVAL. Edificio IDIVAL, Avenida Cardenal Herrera Oria s/n, 39011 Santander (Cantabria), Spain*

E-mail: [sara.pinillos@uam.es](mailto:sara.pinillos@uam.es); [david.cantarero@unican.es](mailto:david.cantarero@unican.es); [jilera@idival.org](mailto:jilera@idival.org)

### **Corresponding Author:**

Sara Pinillos Franco *Dpt. de Análisis Económico: Teoría Económica e Historia Económica, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Cantoblanco. Madrid 28049, Spain. Email: [sara.pinillos@uam.es](mailto:sara.pinillos@uam.es)*

**Funding:** No financial support was provided for the completion of this study.

**Acknowledgment:** Not applicable.

## **Abstract**

### **Background:**

Discrimination negatively affects individuals' mental and physical health. It also increases substance abuse and suicide resorting as a manner to escape from this social concern. Additionally, considering that women are more prone to be the focus of discrimination and prejudice in society, further types of discrimination, e.g. based on race or ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, etc., might imply more negative consequences for their health compared to men's. According to the 493 Eurobarometer, discrimination based on ethnicity and skin color is one of the most widespread in the European Union. Moreover, an EU report in 2020 showed that Europeans are not well protected against age discrimination outside the labor field. We thus aim to examine the association between discrimination based on race/ethnicity and different health outcomes by gender at ages 50 years and older in several European countries.

### **Methods:**

We use the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement (SHARE) for European countries to examine gender discrimination in health behaviors, functioning problems, disability, disease prevalence and self-rated health. Besides, the relationship between discrimination and health outcomes might differ among countries. We then performed a cluster analysis splitting countries according to their family policy (traditional countries, dual-earner, market-oriented...) to check whether from the point of view of the degree of being a conservative country, the effect of discrimination may be stronger on women's health than men's.

### **Results:**

Firstly, our results point out the relevant role that race discrimination play on peoples' health outcomes both physical and mental. Secondly, we find associations between suffering from discrimination with poorer self-rated health compared to ones that are not discriminated. Moreover, our analysis suggests that a conservative cultural background of the country may negatively affect women's health. Nevertheless, a country-by-country deeper analysis is provided to confirm this.

### **Conclusion:**

There is remarkable consistency in direction of gender discrimination in health across the European countries. Our analysis can be considered in order to disentangle policy intervention measures to reduce gender discrimination in health.

**Keywords:** *Gender discrimination, SHARE, Self-rated health, socioeconomic inequalities.*