

Erratum to: Variations in preventive care utilisation in Europe

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TEXT AS IT NOW APPEARS

$$C_{ij} = \beta_0 + W_j\lambda + \omega_{0j} + X_{ij}\beta + e_{ij}$$

The first stage of our analysis consisted of estimating the association between the probability of using each given service (C_{ij}) and several individual explanatory variables (X_{ij} : age, sex, education income, health status). The slope coefficients β of the individual explanatory variables were treated as fixed across countries. However, a random country intercept β_{0j} was introduced in the model in order to take into account the differences between country in the average level of use a given health service. Across countries, the country intercepts β_{0j} were assumed to be normally distributed with a mean β_0 and a variance σ^2 . The estimate of the variance σ^2 provided then a measure of the differences in health care use across countries after controlling for compositional effect due to individual characteristics. If σ^2 was significantly different from zero, it indicated that the level of health services use significantly varies from one country to another.

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The second stage of the analysis aimed to establish the association between various health system features and the probability of service utilisation at the country level. In order to explain the variation in health care use across countries shown by the first stage of this analysis, health systems variables were introduced, in addition to individual characteristics. A random country intercept ω_{0j} (normally distributed) was also introduced in the model in order to control for unobserved country-level factors influencing preventive care use independently of health system characteristics.

THIS SHOULD READ AS:

$$C_{ij} = \beta_0 + W_j\lambda + \omega_{0j} + X_{ij}\beta + e_{ij}$$

The first stage of our analysis consisted of estimating the association between the propensity of using each given service by individual i in country j (C_{ij}) and several individual explanatory variables (X_{ij} : age, sex, education income, health status). The slope coefficients β of the individual explanatory variables were treated as fixed across countries. Furthermore, a random country intercept was introduced in the model in order to take into account the differences between country in the average level of use a given health service. Across countries, the country intercepts were assumed to be normally distributed with a mean (β_0) and a variance. The estimate of the variance provided then a measure of the differences in health care use across countries after controlling for compositional effect due to individual characteristics. If the country variance was significantly different from zero, it indicated that the level of health services use significantly varies from one country to another.

The second stage of the analysis aimed to establish the association between various health system features and the

probability of service utilisation at the country level. In order to explain the variation in health care use across countries shown by the first stage of this analysis, health systems variables W_j were introduced, in addition to individual characteristics. In the model above with health

system variables (W_j), random country intercept ω_{0j} (normally distributed) captures unobserved country-level factors influencing preventive care use independently of the impact of health system characteristics (λ).