

Centre for Health Economics

Seminar Series

‘The child health/ parental income gradient: Evidence from England’

Presented by

A/Prof Michael Shields

Date: Thursday 15th September 2005
Time: 12:00-1:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75 (The STRIP)
Monash University
Clayton, 3800

In an influential study Case et al. (2002) documented a positive relationship between family income and child health in the US, with the slope of the gradient being larger for older than younger children. In this paper we explore the child health income gradient in England, which has a comprehensive publicly-funded National Health Service (NHS) founded on the twin principles of health care being free at the point of delivery and equality of access for the whole population. Our analysis is based on a sample of over 13,000 children (and their parents) drawn from the Health Survey for England. In accordance with Case et al. (2002), we find consistent and robust evidence of a significant family income gradient in child health using the subjective general health status measure. We also provide new evidence that nutrition and family lifestyle choices have an important role in determining child health and that child health outcomes are highly correlated within the family. Together our evidence is consistent with the hypothesis that the NHS has a protective effect on the health of children in England.

Presenter

Following the completion of his PhD (in October 1998), Michael's research has focussed on a number of contemporary applied labour and health economics issues. In particular, he has examined the workings of the labour market for professional nurses, and his most recent work has investigated the determinants of job satisfaction, the role of racial harassment in the workplace and the economic determinants of sporting participation. Michael joined the Department of Economics at the University of Melbourne as a Senior Lecturer in 2001. He is also a Research Fellow of the IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor) in Bonn, the Economics Program in the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS) at the Australian National University and the Melbourne Institute and Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME. The Seminar Series is free of charge. For confirmation of your attendance and further information please telephone 9905 0733 or email che@buseco.monash.edu.au