

MASTER THESIS REVIEW

Author: Yanelkis Fernández-Molina
Thesis: Inequality of Opportunity in Health: Empirical Evidence from Mexico
Reviewer: Cinzia Di Novi

Content

Yanelkis Fernández-Molina's thesis analyzes the inequality in individuals health status due to unfair circumstances by applying a regression-based approach and the Mean Logarithmic Deviation. She used data from the Mexican National Health and Nutrition Survey collected in 2018. Individuals health status has been measured by a set of biomarkers: the glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), albumin in the blood, and the systolic blood pressure, which are indicators used to diagnose and monitor Non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Literature and references

The literature and references are complete and up to date.

Formal requirements

The thesis contains new and significant information; the theoretical and empirical methods were described comprehensively. Interpretations and conclusions are justified by the results; the number of figures and tables are adequate.

Overall evaluation and proposed grade

Following the most recent literature on health inequality, Yanelkis included in her thesis biomarkers as measure of individuals health status. Unlike self-reported health, biomarkers are more objective health measures and provide information on pre-disease conditions and insights on the biological links between socio-economic status and health. However, biomarker data impose a number of statistical challenges, often being distributed asymmetrically with heavy tails. Yanelkis used the proper empirical method to deal with this kind of data.

I am satisfied with her thesis. I do recommend the thesis for defense with grade B.

Date: 06/15/2020 Signature:

