

عنوان مقاله:

Are Price, Income, and Education Expenditure Important in the Iranian households' Demand of Healthcare Services: 2011 to 2017

محل انتشار:

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نویسندگان:

Bahman Ahadinezhad - *Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Research Institute for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran*

Omid Khosravizadeh - *Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Research Institute for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran*

Najmeh Baghian - *Clinical Research Development Center, Shahid Rahneemoon Hospital, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran. Health Policy and Management Research Center, School of Public Health, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran*

Bahareh Mohtashamzadeh - *Health Management and Economics Research Center, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

Saeed Shahsavari - *Health Products Safety Research Center, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran*

خلاصه مقاله:

Background: In health economics, policymakers need to be aware of the individuals' sensitivity and reaction to change effective factors on the healthcare services demand. This study aimed to estimate the healthcare demand function and extract the price, income, and educational elasticity in Iran. Methods: A panel of macro data was used to estimate the demand function. The data included provincial average of the nominal values of Iranian household healthcare and education expenditure, provincial average of their nominal income, and Consumer Price Index values of the healthcare services from 31 provinces during 7 years (2011 to 2017). This information was obtained from the annual Household Budget Survey Reports and no sampling was performed in this research. The dependent variable was the actual amount of demand for health care services. Robust pre-estimation tests and a robust standard error panel regression were run to estimate the demand function in Stata 15. Results: All variables were stationary at the first-order differential (P -value < 0.01). All four variables were co-integrated (P -value < 0.01). The cross-sectional and fixed effects existed for each province (P -value < 0.01). Income and educational expenditure had a positive association with healthcare demand. Price elasticity of demand was -0.897 (P -value < 0.01), income elasticity was 0.491 (P -value < 0.1), and elasticity of education expenditure was 0.486 (P -value < 0.01). Noteworthy, 1 % increase was observed in the household incomes and their educational expenditure increased the demand for health care services by about 0.49 % and 0.48 %, respectively. Conclusion: Healthcare services have been low elastic to price and education expenditure and have also been the essential commodity in the household budget in Iranian households. Later, the price and income coefficients were consistent with the health investment model, but coefficient of the education expenditure was not matched with predictions of the health investment model.

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