

عنوان مقاله:

The Effects of Health Sector Fiscal Decentralisation on Availability, Accessibility, and Utilisation of Healthcare Services : A Panel Data Analysis

محل انتشار:

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خلاصه مقاله:

Background Fiscal decentralisation (FD) is a widely implemented decentralisation policy consisting of the allocation of pooling and spending responsibilities from the central government to lower levels of governance within a country. In ۲۰۰۸, The Italian National Health System (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale, SSN) has introduced a strong element of FD, making regions responsible for their own pooling of resources and for their budgets. Despite the relevance, only few studies exist on health sector-FD in Italy, mostly looking at the effects of FD on infant mortality. **Methods** This study performs a fixed-effects panel data analysis of Italian Regions and Autonomous provinces between the years ۲۰۰۸ and ۲۰۱۷, to investigate the effects of health sector-FD on availability, accessibility, and utilisation of healthcare services in Italy. **Results** FD decreases availability of staff and hospital beds, decreases utilisation of care, measured by hospitalisation rates, and increases interregional patients' mobility for healthcare purposes, a finding suggesting increased disparities in access to healthcare. These effects seem to be stronger for public - rather than private - services, and are more prominent in poorer areas. **Conclusion** This evidence suggest that FD has created a fragmented and unequal healthcare system, in which levels of availability, utilisation of, and accessibility to resources - as well as the extent of public sector's retrenchment - coincide with the wealth of the area.

کلمات کلیدی:

Fiscal Decentralisation, Decentralization, Healthcare Access, Healthcare Financing, Healthcare Equity, Geographical Disparities

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