

Title: Efficiency of primary health care facilities in rural Mongolia

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Abstract

No published study has quantitatively investigated the efficiency of primary care facilities in former soviet health systems that are still over-reliant on inpatient and specialized care. We study the efficiency level and determinants of Soum Health Centres (SHCs) that provide primary care in rural Mongolia. Data on activity and resources use were collected in five rural regions between 2013 and 2015. We use a double bootstrap Data Envelopment Analysis procedure. SHCs of our sample exhibit a rather low level of efficiency since they could, increase activity by 47% without an increase in inputs. Results point to the role of demand-side factors in explaining SHCs' efficiency. We find that the size of the population in the catchment area, the share of the nomadic population and the dependency ratio are positively correlated with SHCs' efficiency. On the contrary, the poverty level of the catchment population is negatively correlated with SHCs' efficiency.

Keywords: Efficiency; Data Envelopment Analysis; Double bootstrapping; Primary care; Mongolia.

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Data availability: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, MG, upon reasonable request.

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