

Inferring Occupation Arduousness from Poor Health Beyond the Age of 50

Arno Baurin^{1,2}, Sandy Tubeuf^{1,3} & Vincent Vandenberghe¹

¹Institute of Economic and Social Research (IRES/LIDAM), UCLouvain

² FRESH-FNRS

³Institute of Health and Society (IRSS), UCLouvain

November 16, 2021

Abstract

In the absence of a direct description of occupation arduousness, this paper shows how it can be inferred from poor health beyond the age of 50. Using retrospective lifetime data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) including the respondents' professional career described with ISCO 2-digit, this paper finds a statistically significant link between many occupations and the risk of poor health beyond the age of 50. Next, we quantify the relative contribution of professional occupation to poor health comparatively to other factors decomposing the variance of health disparities between sources. We find that occupation's arduousness - although a significant predictor of poor health - is less important than initial health endowment, demographics or country fixed effects in explaining differences in health at older age.

Keywords: Health, Work, Occupation Arduousness, Variance Decomposition

JEL Codes: I10, J26, J28