

The Effect of Home Care Type on Recipients' Mental Health: evidence from England

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Résumé

Using a sample of 3,334 community-dwelling older adults in nine waves of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) (2002-2019), this paper investigates the relative effects on mental health of receiving informal, formal or both types of help for difficulties with (instrumental) activities of daily living or mobility. To account for the likely endogenous selection process in these different types of care, this study exploits the longitudinal nature of ELSA by instrumenting the type of care using its first lag. Preliminary results from pooled instrumental variable (IV) models suggest that formal care, alone or combined with informal care, tends to be more beneficial for mental health than informal care alone.

Keywords: informal care, formal care, disability, mental health