



Determinants of a Hospital Attendance An Empirical Analysis of Influencing Factors

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In 2007 in Germany there have been roughly 17 m. hospital cases, distributed between 2,087 hospitals and 500,000 beds. The total expenses for hospitals amounted to around 65 bn. €. Whereas the number of cases increased from 1997 until 2007 by about 4.6%, the length of hospital stay decreased during this time by about 20% to 8.3 days for 2007. Consequently, the number of beds was reduced (-12.7%). In international comparisons Germans are admitted to hospitals relatively often. This poses the question as to which factors influence a hospital stay. Obviously the health situation will be the decisive factor. But the question is which socio-economic, demographic, or regional factors have an additional impact on the probability of a hospital stay.

This paper aims to answer this question on the basis of the German Socio-economic panel (GSOEP). Using a logistic regression we investigate the relationship between hospital stay, state of health, socio-demographic and socio-economic factors as well as regional supply factors. As a result, we obtain odds ratios with hospital stays being the dependent variable. The GSOEP contains relevant information on 3,337 households with 5,963 persons questioned in 2007. The paper relies on the Andersen Behavioural Model (ABM) which serves as a conceptual frame and was developed in the late 1960's. This model distinguishes between three groups of influencing factors: "predisposing factors", "enabling factors" and "need factors"

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