

Inequality and Inequity in the Use of Medical Services in Chile, by Age Group, 2000-2011

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REVISTA PANAMERICANA DE SALUD PUBLICA-PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

vol.36, n°3, p. 171-178

Published: SEP 2014

Abstract

Objective. To calculate indices of inequality and inequity in the use of medical services for children, adults, and older adults in Chile from 2000 to 2011.

Methods. Based on the CASEN survey (2000-2011), the concentration index (CI) was calculated to measure inequality and the horizontal inequity index (HI) was calculated to measure inequity in the use of medical services. Four groups were studied: children under 5, children aged 6-18 years, adults, and older adults.

Results. The results indicate higher levels of inequality in the use of specialized physician services in the child groups, and higher levels of inequity in the adult group. In the use of dental services, the greatest inequality and inequity is found among older adults. For visits to emergency services in the last two years for which data are available (2009 and 2011), the adult group shows a higher level of inequality.

Conclusions. In terms of levels of inequity and inequality, there are differences among children, adults, and older adults over the years in at least three of the six variables studied.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Health inequalities; Health services; Age groups; Chile

KeyWords Plus: HEALTH-CARE UTILIZATION; INCOME-RELATED INEQUALITIES;
MULTILEVEL ANALYSIS; LATIN-AMERICAN; CHILDREN; ACCESS; DETERMINANTS;
COUNTRIES; EQUITY; PATTERNS