

ID: 681317

## **Differences in Health Care Costs across Swiss Cantons**

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### **Objectivos (Objectives):**

Health care costs in Switzerland are among the highest in the OECD countries. In 2006, the health care costs are estimated to amount at 10.8% of GDP. A large part of it is financed through social health insurance premia, directly paid by the population. The variability across cantons of these premia and of the underlying health care costs is important, even though the population is comparable.

### **Metodologia (Methodology):**

Most of the literature focuses on explaining differences between countries. In a panel data setting (26 cantons over the period 2002-2006), this paper tries to explain health care costs and their variation between cantons, within Switzerland.

### **Resultados (Results):**

The most important differences come from socio-economic variables (income, education, proportion of elderly). Surprisingly, there is little evidence of supply induced demand effects. Still, the proportion of hospital stationary care and medical practice are important determinants of the costs.

### **Conclusões (Conclusions):**

In the laboratory that constitutes the Swiss cantons, where institutional settings and health status are comparable, differences in health care costs can be explained essentially by the characteristics of the population.