

The health effects of early interventions: Evidence from Sure Start

Sarah Cattan* Gabriella Conti[†] Christine Farquharson[‡] Rita Ginja[§]

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Abstract

Early intervention programmes to deliver educational, social, and health services are widely recognised as a potentially effective way of promoting better health and preventing the development of costly health problems. In this paper we study the impacts of Sure Start, which provides universal and area-based intervention in England to bring together education, employment, and health services. To study the impacts of Sure Start on childhood obesity and hospitalisations, we use its roll out as a plausibly exogenous variation in the programme use.

JEL Codes: I10, I14, I18

Keywords: Early intervention, obesity, hospitalisations, Sure Start

*Institute for Fiscal Studies. Email: sarah_c@ifs.org.uk.

[†]University College London, Department of Economics, Drayton House, 30 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AX, United Kingdom. Tel.: +44(0)2076794696. Email: gabriella.conti@ucl.ac.uk; Institute for Fiscal Studies.

[‡]Institute for Fiscal Studies. Email: christine_f@ifs.org.uk.

[§]Department of Economics, University of Bergen, Fosswinkelsgate 14, 5007 Bergen, Norway. Tel.: +47 55 58 92 00. Email: rita.ginja@uib.no; Uppsala Center for Labor Studies (UCLS); IZA.

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