

Inequalities of Opportunity in the Use of Healthcare by Young Adults in France – *Doriane Mignon and Florence Jusot*

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o Key Question

While young adults' health is a recognised public health issue in France, less attention is paid to their use of healthcare. This article examines the existence of unequal opportunities in the use of healthcare for young adults. The analysis is developed in the framework of the philosophy of responsibility, particularly Roemer's view that individuals are responsible only for their choices that are uncorrelated to circumstances, and Barry's view that just inequality refers to the totality of choices, whether or not they are influenced by circumstances

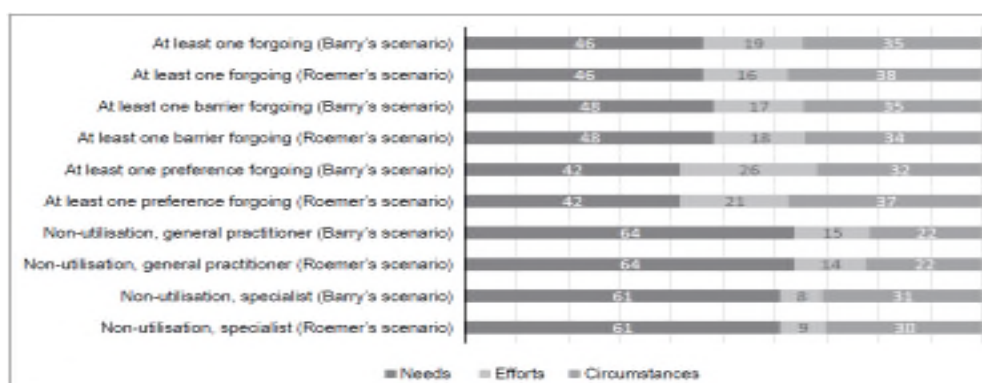
o Methodology

Based on data from the *Enquête nationale sur les ressources des jeunes* (a national survey on young adults resources carried out in 2014), linear probability models are used to estimate the associations between non-use of health care and the young adults and their parents characteristics. A distinction is made between "unfair" inequalities linked to circumstances beyond the control of young people – or unequal opportunity – and "fair" inequalities linked to characteristics for which they are responsible, using the two approaches of responsibility. Variance decomposition makes it possible to quantify these inequalities.

o Results

- Being a woman, having poor health, having supplementary health coverage are positively related to the appeal. Recourse to a general practitioner is positively associated with the young person's degree.
- The association between non-use and several parental variables suggests the persistence of the role of circumstances in non-use.
- The decomposition of predicted inequalities in non-use of care shows that care needs have the largest contribution to inequalities. The second source of fair inequalities, effort, has a lower contribution than circumstances, which are sources of unfair inequalities.

Contributions of needs, efforts and circumstances to the variance of non-use (en %)



Needs explain 46% of the predicted variance in the probability of having at least one forgone health care if correlation of circumstances and efforts is included in the efforts (Barry's view). Source : ENRJ, 2014.

o Message

These results show the importance of circumstances in explaining inequalities in non-use of health care among young adults, and thus the magnitude of inequalities of opportunity. This underlines the importance of taking them into account in policies aimed at reducing inequalities in the use of healthcare.