Data Dictionary for the Rise of Healthcare Jobs

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1 Overview

The included data are subnational estimates, primarily for employment levels and shares with some additional variables. We use 2013 Metropolitan Statistical Areas as our geographic unit. We supplement the official MSA boundaries by taking the non-MSA portions of a state and defining that as a distinct unit. Census disclosure rules require the population of these geographies to be above a certain threshold, preventing us from including all MSAs and non-MSA state units. The available data cover approximately 75% of the US population.

2 Variables

The following table defines the variables. All shares and changes in shares are expressed as decimals between 0-1. "Prime-age" is defined as individuals 25-54.

Table 1: Variable definitions

Variable	Definition
`metro13`	2013 MSA codes; for non-MSA states, the state FIPS code is listed.
`metro_title`	Official name of the MSA (or state abbreviation for non-MSA).
`ln_msa_pop1980`	Natural log of total MSA population in 1980.
`ln_msa_pop2022`	Natural log of total MSA population in 2022.
`change_ln_population`	Change in log population between 1980 and 2022 (i.e. $\ln(\text{pop}_{2022}) - \ln(\text{pop}_{1980})$).
`change_ln_non_hc`	Change in log of non-healthcare employment, 2022 minus 1980.
`change_non_hc_share_lbfr`	Change in non-healthcare share of the total labor force, 2022 minus 1980.
`healthcare_share_prime1980`	Share of prime-age population in healthcare, 1980.
`healthcare_share_prime2022`	Share of prime-age population in healthcare, 2022.
`hc_emp_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population employed in healthcare, 2022 minus 1980.
`manufacturing_share_prime1980`	Share of prime-age workforce in manufacturing, 1980.
`manu_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population employed in manufacturing, 2022 minus 1980.
`non_hc_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population employed outside healthcare, 2022 minus 1980.
`not_lbfr_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population not in the labor force, 2022 minus 1980.
`unemployed_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population unemployed, 2022 minus 1980.
`non_hc_manu_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population employed outside of healthcare and manufacturing, 2022 minus 1980.
`non_manu_share_prime_change`	Change in share of prime-age population employed outside of manufacturing, 2022 minus 1980.
`medicare_share1980`	Share of population 65 or older (i.e., "covered by Medicare") in 1980.
`medicare_share2022`	Share of population 65 or older in 2022.
`change_medicare_share`	Change in share of population 65 or older, 2022 minus 1980.
`ln_aearn1980`	Natural log of average earnings in 1980 (all employed individuals).
`ln_aearn2022`	Natural log of average earnings in 2022 (all employed individuals).
`change_earnings`	Change in log average earnings, 2022 minus 1980 (all employed individuals).
`college1980`	Share of eligible respondents (18+) with at least a bachelor's degree in 1980.
`college2022`	Share of eligible respondents (18+) with at least a bachelor's degree in 2022.
`change_college`	Change in share with at least a bachelor's degree, 2022 minus 1980.