Discussion: Gender Differences in Healthcare Provisions for Children

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Gender bias issue

Choice of a head of household to seek different levels of health care for daughters versus sons.

Suggested Findings

- Bias occurs via health care costs.
- Bias occurs even in the absence of costs (inherent bias).
- Stronger evidence in favor of the bias through the cost channel.

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Interpretation of the Cost channel

- Measuring the response in health care decision to an increase in price (slope or elasticity of a demand curve).
- Author is misinterpreting on interaction term Price*Male.
- Add together interaction with Price coefficient, response to sons is actually *positive*.

Endogeneity Problem

- Not estimating demand (any more than a supply curve).
- Need to identify shifters for supply of health care to trace point on demand curve.
- Instrumental Variable Regression: Identify variables that influence supply to instrument for price.

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- Interpretation: relative *position* of the demand curve for daughters
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Marginal Effects

- Question computation/interpretation for a marginal effect with interaction terms.
- Cross partial marginal effects are tough, see Ai and Norton, Economic Letters, 1993.
- Are marginal effects of dummy variables computed properly?

Complex Interactions

Male*Price*Hindu*hprop etc... too complex, of little value.

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