COVID-19 Impact on workers in Ohio’s Public Health Sector

**Abstract**

Background: This study seeks to measure the impact of COVID-19 on public healthcare workers in Ohio. We ask whether public health sector workers were similarly affected compared to workers in other industries in Ohio and if there were any differences between the subcategories under public healthcare.

Methods: Using detailed firm level data from Ohio Jobs and Family Services (JFS) department, we study the employment levels for different public health care sectors and regions in Ohio. We also calculate job creation and destruction rates to study the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Results: Certain sectors such as Ambulatory Health Care Services and Hospitals recovered to previous employment levels almost immediately after lockdown. Social Assistance also recovered but never reached previous employment levels whereas Nursing and Residential Care facilities experienced permanent decline.

Conclusion:

Keywords: COVID-19, Public Health, Labor Market

Introduction

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (hereby CDC) confirmed the first case of coronavirus disease 2019 (hereby COVID-19) on January 28th, 2020 (source 1). Since then, there have been more than 82,000,000 cases and 995,000 deaths in U.S due to COVID-19 as of May 2022 (source 2). To contain the deadly virus in the U.S, states implemented various safety measures such as stay-at-home orders and mask mandates. Federal government also announced CARES ACT to provide economic support to U.S citizens.

Along with being a global health crisis, COVID-19 has also been an economic crisis (source 3).  
U.S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by record 32.9 percent in the second quarter of 2020 (source 4) and unemployment rate reached 15% (source 5).

Healthcare workers were uniquely affected by COVID-19 lockdown as it was one of the few essential-care services that was not under lockdown. Because the healthcare workers in Ohio form a \_\_% of the total workforce in Ohio, it is important to identify the effect of COVID-19 lockdown on people employed by this sector.

Methodology

**Data**

The data for this study comes from Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS). Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 4141.13 (G) requires the Ohio JFS to collect information from all Ohio employers to determine if they are subject to the state’s unemployment insurance laws. According to JFS website (source 6), unemployment benefits are financed by taxes paid by employers to the federal and state governments. The federal taxes cover most of the program’s administrative costs and the state taxes fund the actual benefits. Unemployment benefits provide short-term income to workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own and who are actively seeking work. JFS collects this data via their State of Ohio Unemployment Resource for Claimants and Employers (SOURCE) application. The employers report to JFS with the number of employees on their payroll every month and the wages paid to the employees. Each employer has a unique Employer Identification Number (EIN) and is classified as per North American Industry Classification system.

Data goes from 2006Q1 to 2021Q2

**Measures**

1. Number of employed persons
2. NAICS code variable
3. Sub-categories variable
4. EIN
5. Unique location identifier
6. Region

Results

Discussion

Public Health Implications

References:

1. source 1:

2. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7753392/>

4. <https://www.bea.gov/news/2020/gross-domestic-product-2nd-quarter-2020-advance-estimate-and-annual-update#:~:text=Real%20gross%20domestic%20product%20(GDP,the%20Bureau%20of%20Economic%20Analysis>.

5. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/unemployment-rate-rises-to-record-high-14-point-7-percent-in-april-2020.htm>

6. <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/uctax/UITaxForNewEmployers.stm>

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