

# The determinants of the health status in a developing country: results from the Colombian case

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## Introduction

The estimation of the determinants of health status is an important input for public policy. It helps to understand the risk of specific habits and its effects in productivity and economic growth (Savedoff and Schultz 2000). It also brings information to the policy makers about the effects of particular public strategies in the health condition of the population (Gerdtham *et al.* 1999).

The approach of this paper follows the Health Demand Theory, making a distinction between the demand for health and the demand for health care

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(Grossman 1972). From the theory of human capital formulated by Becker (1965), Grossman built a model where health is viewed as an investment in human capital and as an output of household production processes (Jones *et al.*, 2003). Individuals demand health not only because of utility reasons — feeling well makes you feel better— but because it generates future healthy time which would have an impact on the productivity of the person and his utility function. Individuals are assumed to invest in health production until the marginal cost of health production equals the marginal benefits of improving health status.

Grossman (1972) explains theoretically the determination of the health status. Many epidemiologists have stressed the importance of the relationship between socioeconomic status and health outcomes, often implying a causal relationship running from the former to the latter. Works by Wagstaff (1993), Gerdtham *et al.* (1999), Grossman (2000) among others, present empirical evidence about this relationship. In Colombia, Ribero and Nuñez (2000) study the effects of health conditions on productivity, finding intermediate results of socioeconomic determinants of health status. They used a Colombian survey from 1991, before a structural reform of the health sector took place in 1993. The dependent variable measuring health was an anthropometrics measure —height of a person.

This paper tries to find empirical evidence of health determinants as a measure of health capital in a developing country after a deep reform of its health-care sector. Contrary to Ribero and Nuñez (2000), two surveys from 1997 and 2000 in Colombia, with a subjective (self-report) health status of the individuals and information about the health system affiliation type were used. Although both surveys do not create a panel data, important hypotheses can be confirmed from two different periods of time, with different economic and social conditions in the country.<sup>1</sup> This could be relevant for the evaluation of the health reform.

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1 The EDS2000 was used as a reference to compare the estimation in the ECV97. However, information about income was not available in the demographic survey. This was the main reason for not taking into account the demographic survey in 1995. Other interesting surveys like CASEN 1993 are available but were not useful for our purpose because they were implemented before the social reform.

The non observability of the health capital (health status) is a main issue in the empirical analyses (Folland *et al.*, 2001; Wagstaff, 1993 and Baker *et. al.*, 2001). A subjective measure of the health status is used in this case through a question in both surveys about the individual perception of his health condition —poor, fair, good or excellent. The variable is based on a simple survey question that has high reliability, but does not yield a continuous health status measure, making difficult to interpret the size of the regression coefficients in a demand-for-health regression equation (Baker *et al.*, 2001). The estimation method is an order probit model.

The Health Sector in Colombia was deeply transformed in 1993 under a central purpose of improving the population health status throughout the reduction of the health services barriers. The improvement of health insurance coverage is notorious in the first three years of implementation; the percentage of people with access to health insurance changed from 20% in 1993 to 55% in 1997 and 57% in 2000 (Jaramillo 1999; Bitran and Asociados and Econometría, 2002), showing a very slow evolution in health insurance coverage during these last years. The health insurance plans designed in the system differ in terms of conditions and quality. We believe that these differences have an effect in the health status of people with different coverage types and the fact that poor peoples access to a lower quality health service widens the gap between social sectors. Under these circumstances it is important to study the individual, family, and community characteristics that determine the health status of an individual.

The paper is presented as follows. The next section briefly explains the Colombian health-care sector after the reform in 1993. The third section explains the methodology, including the data, hypothesis and model implemented. The fourth section presents the estimation results and, finally, we conclude.

## **I. Institutional Background: the Colombian Health-Care Sector**

The health-care system in Colombia was deeply transformed in 1993 and rebuilt under the principles of efficiency, universality, and solidarity. A public and protectionist national health system, with a centralized and vertical organization was changed into a social security system based on insurance processes, competition between the insurance administrators and

the suppliers, and a redistribution capacity to transfer resources to subsidize the poor population (Londoño, 1996; Yepes, 2000; Trujillo, 2003, McPake *et al.*, 2003). The main objective of the reform was to build adequate and general access conditions to the system, bringing, as a consequence, an improvement on the population's health status.

Two parallel regimes under the health-care social security system were built. A *contributive regime*, to which all workers must affiliate —employees and independent workers with a minimum payment capacity established by the government—, and a *subsidized regime*, for those with no payment capacity and with the need to be financially helped by the State —partially or totally— in order to have access to health care. All citizens have to be affiliated to one of the two regimes. Nevertheless, given the later evolution of the system and the macroeconomic performance in Colombia, there has been a very important percentage of the population not covered by any type of health insurance — 45% in 1997 and 43% in 2000 (Jaramillo 1999; Bitran and Asociados and Econometria 2002). The people without payment capacity, but not poor enough to be subsidized or people evading the payment are both in this group.

A mandatory payroll tax of 12% of the worker's labor income enters the *contributive regime*. The family of the employee is covered by the insurance. The payment is split between the workers (4%) and their employers (8%), while the self-employed contribute 12% of their income. The affiliation process conducted by private and public intermediate institutions, called *Entidades Promotoras de Salud* (EPS), which offer a health plan (POS) regulated by the *Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Social en Salud* —CNSSS (National Council of Social Security in Health), integrated by members of the government, unions, and the institutions involved in the system. The contribution is transferred by the EPS to the (*Fondo de Solidaridad y Garantía*) —FOSYGA (Trujillo, 2003), which is a public fund that distributes the contribution among the affiliated people not only in the contributive regime but also in the subsidized regime. The EPS receive from the FOSYGA a payment for each individual enrolled, differentiated by age, sex, and residence region 8,3% of the transfer made by the EPS to the FOSYGA is redistributed to cover part of the affiliation of the poor people into the security system —under the second type of regime.

To determine the economic and social conditions of the individuals, a survey (SISBEN) is made. The population is divided into six socioeconomic groups (estratos), with group 1 being the poorest and 6 the least poor. The individuals from groups 1 and 2 enter into the social security system through the subsidized regime. Groups 1 to 3 are all to some extent a vulnerable population and therefore the focus of the different public subsidies.<sup>2</sup> An affiliation to a health plan (POS) has to be made through special sickness funds, called *Administradoras de Régimen Subsidiado* (ARS). Their funding depends on a percentage of the contributive regime income and a financial support from the central and local governments, transferred from FOSYGA. The ARS play the same role in the subsidized regime as their counterparts (EPSs) in the contributive regime.

Two complementary health care access types work in the health system. On the one hand, a public safety net (GP) is promoted trying to serve the low-income population not covered by the subsidized program and not qualified for the contribution plan (*Población Vinculada*), it is usually locally promoted and it is financed by general tax revenues. The quality of the services is low, the access is limited and the services package is minimal. On the other hand, a traditional private health insurance (PI) is available and any individual can pay for a specific health plan managed by a private institution. This option is not a substitute, but complementary, to the contributive regime affiliation.<sup>3</sup>

The conditions offered by the POS, POSS and the GP are quite different. At the moment, the quality of health care services of the POS is much greater than the quality of the POSS and the GP. This is true because of the number of services included in each package and the number of health care service institutions available for the different regimes.<sup>4</sup> The difference between

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2 Groups 4 to 6 are the population with payment capacity and must access to health care services through contributive regime. The lower bound of this group could be very similar in terms of socioeconomic background to the upper bound of group 3, which is a recipient of public subsidies.

3 However, some people with payment capacity, who should be affiliated to the contributive regime, evade the system (i. e. 9% in the ECV97) and use private medical care services.

4 The Colombian legislation on health (Ley 1000, 1993) states that the differences in the health plan among regimes must be transitory. However, the transition time is not well defined and the government has postponed the time at which the gap should be closed. By the time of the data the POS included more services with respect to diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation in the three different levels of medical attention (primary, secondary and tertiary).

health plans suggests that people in the contribution regime tend to have better health conditions than those in other regimes, not only because of their socioeconomic conditions, but because of greater access to the social security system and the better services received.

## II. Methods

### A. Model and Hypothesis

A model for health demand following the framework of Grossman (1972) is the base of the estimation. As explained before, health is viewed as an investment in human capital and as an output of the household production process. Individuals demand health to increase their utility today and to have more healthy time available for market and non-market activities in the future (Jones *et al.*, 2003).

Assuming first that consumption benefits are equal to zero —pure investment— the optimal decision is such that the marginal efficiency of capital (MEC) is equal to the opportunity cost of capital. If MEC is inelastic, the model predicts older people invest more time in health than younger ones. At the same time, as the wage increases, the demand for health rises although not necessarily the demand for medical care —given the substitution incentives between medical care and time. The same result holds for education. Such conclusions are ambiguous in the pure consumption or consumption-investment model.

Empirical studies have tried to find some answers. Grossman (1972) tests his model using US data finding a positive effect of wages, education, and age on the demand for health. Later studies confirm these results for other countries as well as for the U.S., e.g. Wagstaff (1993) and Gerdtham *et al.* (1999).

The set up of our model is the following:

$$H_i = \beta_1 * Y_i + \beta_2 * E_i + \beta_3 * D_i + \beta_4 * I_i + \beta_5 * S_i + \mu_i$$

$\mu_i$  is an error term with zero mean and constant variance.  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_5$  are the unknown coefficients to be estimated.  $H_i$  is the health status of the individual  $i$ .  $Y_i$  and  $E_i$  are the income and education of the individual  $i$ , respectively. The depreciation of health, represented by  $D_i$ , is a vector of exogenous variables that affect the rate of depreciation during the life cycle. Socio economic ( $S$ ) and institutional health system ( $I$ ) variables are also considered as determinants.

The reason to include additional socioeconomic and institutional variables is pointed out by Ross and Mirowsky (2000). Although the relation between socioeconomic status and health is well established, it is not clear if this is a causal relation or because people with higher income have access to different kinds of insurance policies which would give them better health. Trying to deal with such possible bias made us include these additional controls.

A priori, taking into account the current evidence in other countries and the pure-investment set up, is expected that the income of the individual has a positive effect on his health status ( $b_1 > 0$ ); a person with higher income has better life conditions and greater payment capacity for access to good nutrition and quality health services. A wealthy person also tends to invest more in health production resulting in a better health status. The situation is similar with education  $E_i$  ( $b_2 > 0$ ) and socioeconomic variables (Attanasio and Emmerson 2001; Ross and Mirowsky 2000). The institutional variables affect the conditions of health, depending of the quality and the number of services offered to the individual (Ross and Mirowsky 2000).

### **B. Data**

Two data surveys were used. The “Encuesta Nacional de Demografía y Salud —ENDS2000” (*demographic and health national survey 2000*) elaborated by PROFAMILIA,<sup>5</sup> covers 47.520 people and 10.905 households in different regions of Colombia and asks for demographic and institutional health conditions, including a self-report of the individuals health perception. The “Encuesta de Calidad de Vida de 1997 ECV97” (*living standard measurement*)<sup>6</sup> is the major survey about life-quality survey in Colombia (national wide representative) with data of 29 of the 33 states in Colombia, covering 38.518 people and 9.121 households, and elaborated by the government statistics agency “Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)” in 1997. Sub samples of 28.477 individuals and 15.315 are taken from the ENDS2000 and the ECV97, respectively —labor force participant, from 16 to 65 years old.

5 Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) affiliate in Colombia.

6 This survey follows the procedure of the World Bank living standard surveys.

The two surveys were made in different periods, both crucial in the health reform implementation process. The ECV97, was conducted three years after the new system had been established and the economy and employment were improving. The health insurance coverage in both regimes reached 55%. In 2000, when the ENDS2000 was implemented, Colombia was consumed in a critical economic situation, with the deepest depression in 50 years. The health insurance coverage in that year reached 57%, just two points above from three years earlier and far away from the 100% coverage goal.

### **C. Variables**

The data used in the analysis are defined in Table 1 and summary statistics for these variables are given in Table 2. The health status of an individual is measure as the individuals perception of his health condition — poor, fair, good or excellent. The variable is based on a simple survey question with high reliability.<sup>7</sup>

The independent variables are taken as follows. The income is represented as the natural logarithm of household income, and a discrete variable differentiating type of occupation is introduced. The occupation of the individual tends to be positively related with his earnings. We expect the health condition to improve as the income increases and as the occupation type is more stable and safe. We also control by the level of education —no education, elementary, high school, undergraduate and post-graduate.

Variables like age and gender are taken as determinants of the rate of depreciation in health (Gerdtham *et al.*,1999). Age is a continuous variable and the gender is a dummy variable that distinguishes between male and female. We expect the age to affect positively the rate of depreciation of capital health, since the health status decreases with age.

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7 The data shows that people without a chronic illness perceive a better health status (probability of 75%). At the same time, people that have not had health problems in the 30 days before from the date the survey was conducted tend to perceive a better health status than those who have had health issues (76% against 56%). The data is consistent with this statement. The dependent variable is a subjective variable of health perception. It may be correlated with income and education (Baker *et. al.* (2001)). However, as several authors have explained, the use of self-report as the dependent variable is a good approximation to the measurement of health capital (see Baker *et al.* (2001), Gerdtham *et al.* (1999), and Wagstaff (1993)). Fore a more complete discussion of the benefits and pitfalls of using a subjective dependent variable see Baker *et al.* (2001).

For socioeconomic conditions, variables as mother's and father's education, rooms and number of people in the households, type of fuel used for cooking and geographical location are used (Akin *et al.*, 1998; Savedoff and Schultz, 2000; Ross and Mirowsky 2000; Trujillo 2003). The education of the mother and the father are measured in the same way that the individual's. The type of fuel is measured as a dummy variable of one (1) for electricity or natural gas, and zero (0) for other types of less quality fuel. The geographical location is included because of the importance of regional differences in Colombia. This variable is a vector of dummies that controls for the different regions: Atlantic, East, Pacific, Center, Antioquia, Bogotá,

Table 1. *Definition of variables*

Variable	Definition
<i>Dependent Variable</i>	
Health Status	Categorical health self-report: 0=poor, 1=fair, 2=good, 3=excellent
<i>Independent variable</i>	
<i>Individual's Characteristics</i>	
Age	Age of individuals
Education level	Education level: 1=no education, 2=elementary school, 3=high school, 4= superior
Sex	0=male, 1=female
Occupation (ECV97)	1=worker, 2= self-employed, 3=unemployed, 4=student, 5=other
Occupation (ENDS2000)	1=employed, 2=unemployed, 3=student, 4=other
<i>Institutional Characteristics</i>	
Health Social Security System	Evaluating reform of health system:
Health System (ECV97)	0="población vinculada", 1=subsidized regime, 2=contributive regime, 3=no affiliated
Health system (ENDS2000)	1=contributive regime, 2=subsidize regime, 3=no affiliated
<i>Household's Characteristics</i>	
Household Income <sup>a</sup>	Natural logarithm of household income
Mother Education <sup>a</sup>	Education level: 0=no education, 1=elementary school, 2= high school, 3= undergraduate, 4=graduate
Father Education <sup>a</sup>	Education level: 0=no education, 1=elementary school, 2= high school, 3= undergraduate, 4=graduate
Persons	Number of persons into household
Rooms	Number of rooms in the housing
Fuel	1=Electricity or natural gas, 0=others
<i>Geographical factors</i>	
Region (ECV97)	1=Atlantic, 2=East, 3=Pacific, 4=Center, 5=Antioquia, 6=Bogotá, 7=Orinoquia
Region (ENDS2000)	1=Atlantic, 2=East, 3=Pacific, 4=Center, 5=Bogotá

a: Variables not available in the ENDS2000

Table 2. *Sample descriptive statistics*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)				ENDS2000 (n=28477)			
	Mean	s.d.	Min.	Max.	Mean	s.d.	Min.	Max.
<i>Dependent Variable</i>								
Health Status	1,77	0,69	0	3	1,7	0,59	0	3
<i>Independent variable</i>								
<i>Individual's Characteristics</i>								
Age	33,89	13,15	16	65	34,92	13,52	16	65
Education level	2,56	0,83	1	4	2,61	0,78	1	4
Sex	0,48	0,49	0	1	0,48	0,49	0	1
Occupation	2,86	1,64	1	5	2,02	1,32	1	4
<i>Institutional Characteristics</i>								
Health Social Security System	1,94	0,93	1	3	2,05	0,88	1	3
<i>Household's Characteristics</i>								
Household Income	12,83	1,53	5,11	17,97	-	-	-	-
Mother Education	2,23	0,89	1	4	-	-	-	-
Father Education	2,21	0,92	1	4	-	-	-	-
Persons	5,21	2,34	1	19	5,27	2,49	1	21
Rooms	3,64	1,6	1	14	2,5	1,12	1	9
Fuel	0,73	0,44	0	1	0,79	0,41	0	1
<i>Geographical factors</i>								
Atlantic	0,22	0,41	0	1	0,27	0,44	0	1
East	0,15	0,36	0	1	0,17	0,37	0	1
Pacific	0,17	0,37	0	1	0,26	0,44	0	1
Center	0,14	0,34	0	1	0,17	0,37	0	1
Antioquia	0,17	0,37	0	1	-	-	-	-
Bogotá	0,11	0,31	0	1	0,13	0,34	0	1
Orinoquia	0,04	0,2	0	1	-	-	-	-

Orinoquia. In the ENDS2000 Antioquia is included into the center region and Orinoquia into the east region. The levels of earnings, quality of life, and labor conditions are generally worse in the coastal region than in the interior (Ribero and Nuñez, 2000).

As an institutional variable for the health system, a differentiation through a dummy was made between the insurance type —población vinculada (i.e. not affiliated and without payment capacity), subsidized, contributive or non-affiliated. We believe that people in the contributive system tend to have better health condition than the rest of the population, because of the higher quality of its services, the wider package plans, and the better socioeconomic outcomes. The comparison between the subsidized regime and the no-affiliation group without payment capacity (i.e. población vinculada) is ambiguous because this last group is largely composed by

people classified in group 3 of the socioeconomic status. People from group 3 have less health care services but a better socioeconomic background.

In this context, individual variables —such as age, education, gender, occupation (following Gerdtham *et al.*, 1999)—, institutional variables (such as the health system affiliation type), and environmental variables (such as family income, mother and father education, number of rooms in the household, the geographical position, and the type of fuel used for cooking; Akin *et al.* 1998; Savedoff and Schultz 2000), are taken as determinants of the individual's health status.

#### **D. Estimation method**

Order probit estimations were implemented. This methodology is used given the categorical condition of the health status variable —it takes values from 0 to 3, if the person health status is poor, fair, good or excellent— (Wooldridge, 2002; Greene, 2000).

Following Greene (2000) the order *probit* model is built around a latent regression given by:

$$H^* = \beta' X + \varepsilon \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$$

The health condition is unobserved, but an individual's self-report of his health status is taken as an index, defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= 0 \text{ if } H^* \leq \mu_0, \\ H &= 1 \text{ if } \mu_0 < H^* \leq \mu_1, \\ H &= 2 \text{ if } \mu_1 < H^* \leq \mu_2, \\ H &= 3 \text{ if } \mu_2 < H^* \leq \mu_3 \end{aligned}$$

The unknown  $\mu$ 's are estimated simultaneously with the  $\beta$ . With the normal distribution the following probabilities are obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} Pr ob(H = 0) &= \Phi(\mu_0 - \beta' X), \\ Pr ob(H = 1) &= \Phi(\mu_1 - \beta' X) - \Phi(\mu_0 - \beta' X), \\ Pr ob(H = 2) &= \Phi(\mu_2 - \beta' X) - \Phi(\mu_1 - \beta' X), \\ Pr ob(H = 3) &= 1 - \Phi(\mu_2 - \beta' X) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mu_0 < \mu_1 < \mu_2$ , in order for the probabilities to be positive.

### III. Results

Once an ordered probit model was estimated, most of the intuitions that emerged from the descriptive statistics of conditional probability (Table 3) were confirmed and the results from both surveys were quite similar.

The results present a consistent relationship between health and the different variables (see Table 4). Changes in current household income and education have positive effects on a person's health; as a person becomes older his health condition decreases and an employee has a lower chance of having a regular or bad health status than a student or unemployed person (maybe because he/she has relatively more stability and less risk). These results are according to theoretical and empirical exercises like Grossman (1972, 2000), Akin *et al.* (1998) and Gerdtham *et al.* (1999).

The estimation also shows that women tend to have worse health than men. Although women have longer life expectancy than men, this result seems to be consistent with the existing literature. According to the World Health Organization (1998), "despite their greater longevity women in most communities report more illness and distress than men (Rahman *et al.*, 1994; Rodin and Ickovics, 1990; US National Institutes of Health, 1992). The precise details of this excess in female morbidity and the factors that lie behind it will vary in different social groups, but the broad picture is one where women's lives seem to be less healthy than those of men (Macintyre, 1996). The explanation for this apparent paradox lies in the complex relationship between biological and social influences in the determination of human health and illness".

According with the expectations, the people affiliated to the social security system through the contributive regime (EPS-POS) tend to have higher health conditions, compared with people affiliated through the other regimes (ARS-POSS, vinculados or GP). An individual not affiliated to the system with or without payment capacity has a better health condition than those in the ARS-POSS. This can be explained because there is a good portion of evasion in the contributive system and people with payment capacity use the governmental program and do not enter the formal system. There are estimations of evasion/elusion around 35% in 2000 (Bitran and Asociados and Econometria 2002). Moreover, people in the regime of "población vinculada" have higher socioeconomic backgrounds than those affiliated to

the subsidized regime (i.e. the 90% of the population in the subsidized regime belongs to groups 1 and 2 in the ECV97). The household income from a person of group 3 and included in the regime of “población vinculada”, in average, has twice the household income of a person included in the subsidized regime. These higher economic differences might explain an income effect to explain the fact that people in the subsidized regime have the lowest self-perception of their health status.

The results about social economic status are clear. Better social and economic position affect the health condition in a positive way. The more rooms a home has the better the health status and if the family cooks with electricity or natural gas the better their health status than compared to other fuels. The health status falls as the number of individuals in a home increases. People living in Bogotá and Antioquia —the capital and one of the richest states, respectively— are in better conditions than the population in the rest of the country. As the education of both the mother and the father increases, so does the health of the person.

The probabilistic models estimations suggest that the health status of the colombians —as a measure of the health capital stock —is influenced by two types of variables: those which are referred to the basic model of Grossman such as the current income, age and education, and those specifically for the Colombian case. The geographical condition, for instance, improves the health perspective of a person if he lives in Bogotá or the Antioquia region. The beneficial plans, like the contributive ones, have important and positive effects compared with the subsidized or the governmental plans. The demographic conditions and the family size also influence person’s health.

Table 3. Conditional Probabilities

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)				ENDS2000 (n=28477)			
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Individual's Characteristics</i>								
Age	43,31 -14,02	38,11 -13,9	31,62 -12,12	31,19 -11,89	44,46 (14,05)	39,33 (14,08)	32,72 (12,63)	33,33 (12,74)
<i>Education level</i>								
No education	7,40%	44,40%	44,00%	4,10%	9,20%	44,70%	44,70%	1,40%
Elementary	4,50%	40,70%	47,50%	7,30%	4,50%	35,90%	57,50%	2,10%
High School	1,30%	21,20%	63,40%	14,10%	1,60%	21,50%	72,50%	4,40%
Superior	0,50%	9,90%	63,50%	26,10%	0,80%	12,30%	77,10%	9,80%
<i>Sex</i>								
Male	3,80%	33,40%	52,40%	10,40%	2,50%	23,30%	69,40%	4,80%
Female	2,10%	24,90%	58,90%	14,10%	3,70%	31,00%	62,10%	3,20%
<i>Occupation</i>								
Worker <sup>a</sup>	1,20%	17,70%	62,30%	18,30%	2,32%	25,40%	67,90%	4,50%
Self-employed	3,10%	34,10%	53,40%	9,40%	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	1,80%	24,90%	60,20%	13,10%	1,70%	22,90%	70,60%	4,80%
Student	1,00%	15,10%	65,60%	18,20%	0,70%	14,60%	78,50%	6,20%
Other	5,10%	40,10%	47,40%	7,30%	5,80%	36,00%	55,90%	2,30%
<i>Institutional Characteristics</i>								
<i>Health System</i>								
"Población Vinculada"	4,20%	30,30%	56,10%	9,40%	-	-	-	-
Subsidize regime	6,20%	35,90%	50,60%	7,30%	4,60%	36,00%	57,50%	1,90%
Contributive regime	2,20%	20,00%	60,10%	17,70%	1,70%	19,70%	72,10%	6,50%
No affiliated	5,00%	30,30%	54,60%	10,10%	3,60%	29,60%	63,90%	2,90%

Continuue...

Table 3. *Continuation*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)				ENDS2000 (n=28477)			
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Household's Characteristics</i>								
<i>Household Income</i>								
<i>Mother Education</i>								
No education	5,30%	43,10%	44,60%	7,00%	-	-	-	-
Elementary	3,00%	31,60%	54,70%	10,70%	-	-	-	-
High School	1,90%	21,00%	63,60%	13,50%	-	-	-	-
Superior	0,40%	10,80%	59,90%	28,90%	-	-	-	-
<i>Father Education</i>								
No education	5,50%	42,40%	45,20%	6,90%	-	-	-	-
Elementary	2,80%	31,30%	55,20%	10,70%	-	-	-	-
High School	1,40%	19,50%	65,10%	14,00%	-	-	-	-
Superior	1,00%	11,20%	61,00%	26,80%	-	-	-	-
Rooms	3,24 (1,43)	3,30 (1,53)	3,62 (1,57)	4,06 (1,67)	2,35 -1,05	2,36 -1,08	2,55 -1,13	2,73 -1,11
Persons	5,41 -2,63	5,19 -2,42	5,2 -2,29	4,67 -1,97	5,49 -2,75	5,37 -2,6	5,26 -2,43	4,67 -2,34
<i>Fuel</i>								
Electricity	2,20%	24,40%	58,90%	14,50%	2,60%	24,30%	68,50%	4,60%
Other	5,30%	43,00%	46,00%	5,70%	5,00%	38,70%	54,70%	1,60%
<i>Geographical factors</i>								
Atlantic	1,90%	29,50%	61,10%	7,50%	3,60%	29,00%	64,80%	2,60%
East	4,90%	38,50%	49,00%	7,60%	2,50%	29,10%	63,40%	5,00%
Pacific	3,40%	25,90%	59,50%	11,20%	4,00%	31,20%	61,70%	3,10%
Center	2,20%	32,10%	53,80%	11,90%	3,00%	26,30%	65,60%	5,10%
Antioquia	4,00%	27,90%	46,40%	21,70%	-	-	-	-
Bogotá	1,00%	17,10%	65,70%	16,20%	2,20%	19,20%	74,40%	4,20%
Orinoquia	3,80%	38,00%	48,50%	9,70%	-	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup> In the ENDS2000 worker is employed, included worker and self-employed.

Table 4. *Order Probit Estimation*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)		ENDS2000 (n=28477)	
	Coefficient	z-statistic	Coefficient	z-statistic
<i>Individual's Characteristics</i>				
Age	-0,019***	-21,6	-0,019***	-29,96
<i>Education level</i>				
Elementary	0,022*	0,62	0,114***	3,7
High School	0,278***	6,91	0,312***	9,32
Superior	0,547***	11,34	0,572***	14,19
<i>Sex</i>				
Male	0,242***	11,35	0,208***	12,4
<i>Occupation</i>				
Self-employed	-0,071	-2,5	-	-
Unemployed	-0,09	-1,46	-0,046	-
Student	-0,172***	-4,57	-0,103***	-3,83
Other	-0,204***	-6,85	-0,156***	-8,1
<i>Institutional Characteristics</i>				
<i>Health System<sup>a</sup></i>				
Subsidize regime	-0,03*	-3,25	-	-
Contributive regime	0,16***	-4,26	-0,330***	-15,28
No affiliated	0,13***	-3,77	-0,295***	-16,67
<i>Household's Characteristics</i>				
Household Income	0,052***	6,89	-	-
<i>Mother Education</i>				
Elementary	0,004*	0,14	-	-
High School	-0,029	-0,93	-	-
Superior	0,124**	2,56	-	-
<i>Father Education</i>				
Elementary	0,084***	3,16	-	-
High School	0,160***	4,92	-	-
Superior	0,281***	6,35	-	-
Rooms	0,048***	7,33	0,065***	8,88
Persons	-0,024***	-5,79	-0,025***	-7,51
<i>Fuel</i>				
Electricity	0,198***	7,77	0,178***	9,32

Continue...

Table 4. *Continuation*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)		ENDS2000 (n=28477)	
	Coefficient	z-statistic	Coefficient	z-statistic
<i>Region factors</i>				
East	-0,158***	-5,28	0,114***	5,05
Pacific	0,066**	2,26	-0,066***	-2,99
Center	0,079**	2,57	0,128***	6,36
Antioquia	0,195***	6,11	-	-
Bogotá	0,058*	1,77	0,104***	4,29
Orinoquia	-0,249***	-5,19	-	-
$\mu_0$	-1.664	0,1144	-2.416	0,055
$\mu_1$	-0,27	0,1136	-0,914	0,0529
$\mu_2$	1.831	0,1143	1.568	0,053
Pseudo R2	0,104		0,085	
Log likelihood	-14372,99		-22677,29	

a: ENDS2000 Health system is composed by subsidized regime (referent group in the estimation), contributive regime and no affiliated. \*\*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*  $P < 0.05$ , \*  $P < 0.10$

#### IV. Robustness of the Results

In order to check our result and for robustness analysis, we run different setups of the general model. For this check up we use the ECV97 because income information is available. First, the pure Grossman model —just income and education as explanatory variables, controlling for age and gender— was run first (Table 5 Column 1). The results show positive and significant coefficients of income and education and a negative effect of age, as expected.

Including the explanatory variable of social security affiliation type (Table 5 Column 2), neither the sign nor significance of the basic model's variables change. At the same time, the results show that people affiliated through the subsidized regime have a lower health status than the ones not affiliated. This would indicate an adverse selection problem in the system as a whole and the purpose of affiliating the vulnerable population is met. We keep having these results along the different specifications.

Column 3 of the table includes the occupation variables, looking to incorporate other institutional factors. Given the legal framework, the chance of having access to the system increases if the person is under a labor

contract. Again, the regression shows additional elements of the system not captured in the pure model. There is a negative and significant (at 10%) gap between worker and self-employed. Between worker and not employed the result is not significant. This could make sense given the structure of the survey. The unemployment status asks for a period of one month. A part of the population could have lost their jobs, were in the social system while they were working and kept the status.

When the education of the mother is considered together with the variables explained before in Table 5, their effect is positive. Nevertheless, including father's education drives the effect away and is the father's years of schooling explain part of the health status. One possible reason for this is the importance of the father's income as a component family income—which would determine other unmeasured socioeconomic conditions (see Table 5 Columns 4 and 5). Even if the income effect coming from the father's education is important the final model includes both mother's education and father's education as explanatory variables, following the traditional literature on health.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, the rest of the variables were included, i.e. number of people and rooms in the household, fuel type, and household localization by region. The results follow the international literature. More people and fewer rooms in the households represent less care for a specific individual. Less environment-compatible fuel represents less health for a specific person.<sup>9</sup> The geographical condition, for instance, improve the health perspective of a person if he lives in the more developed regions. Several studies in Colombia have stated that the inequalities in health and health insurance are strength across the regions and even more within regions (i.e. between rural and urban areas in each region).<sup>10</sup> These regressions show the extend to which a broader set-up is useful. Including institutional and socioeconomic explanatory variables in the Grossam model for the Colombian case, would give additional information not shown in the pure-model.

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8 The main results of the literature on the effect of parent's education states that mother's education is more important than father education to explain the health results, after controlling by income and economic conditions (Folland *et al.*; 2000).

9 Regressions interacting number of people in a household and number of rooms were considered also. The results don't change.

10 For a more complete analysis of health and health services inequalities in Colombia see Florez and Tono (2002) and Florez *et al.* (2003).

Table 5. *Order Probit Estimation*  
*Robustness of the results*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)				
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
<i>Individual's Characteristics</i>					
Age	0,015*** (-22,49)	-0,017*** (-24,42)	-0,017*** (-23,36)	-0,016*** (-20,69)	0,016*** (-19,05)
<i>Education level</i>					
Elementary	0,15*** ( 4,98)	0,12*** ( 3,93)	0,12*** ( 3,83)	0,09*** ( 2,69)	0,09*** ( 2,33)
High School	0,61*** ( 28,35)	0,52*** ( 15,12)	0,51*** ( 14,8)	0,46*** ( 11,92)	0,44*** ( 10,20)
Superior	1,15*** ( 25,03)	1,01*** ( 11,91)	0,976*** ( 19,61)	0,88*** ( 9,97)	0,88*** ( 9,46)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	0,28*** (-17,09)	-0,29*** (-17,26)	-0,23*** (-12,22)	-0,22*** (-11,4)	-0,24*** (-11,19)
<i>Occupation</i>					
Self-employed			-0,04*** (-1,17)	-0,04** (-1,88)	-0,04*** (-1,46)
Unemployed			-0,02*** (-0,40)	-0,02*** (-0,37)	-0,04*** (-0,72)
Student			-0,1*** (-2,66)	-0,12*** (-3,09)	-0,13** (-3,13)
Other			0,14*** (-5,32)	0,15*** (-5,74)	0,15*** (-5,27)
<i>Institutional Characteristics</i>					
<i>Health System</i>					
Subsidize regime		0,098*** (-4,21)	0,099*** (-4,22)	0,098*** (-3,98)	0,099*** (-3,71)
Contributive regime		0,22*** ( 10,11)	0,2*** ( 9,02)	0,19*** ( 8,17)	0,18*** ( 7,26)
No affiliated		0,08*** ( 2,42)	0,08*** ( 2,45)	0,09*** ( 2,57)	0,09*** ( 2,46)

Continue...

Table 5. *Continuation*

Variable	ECV97 (n=15315)				
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
<i>Household's Characteristics</i>					
Household Income	0,092*** ( 15,27)	0,066*** ( 10,38)	0,061*** ( 9,48)	0,055*** ( 8,13)	0,054*** ( 7,50)
<i>Mother Education</i>					
Elementary				0,1*** ( 4,31)	0,04*** ( 1,79)
High School				0,09*** ( 3,46)	0,006*** ( 0,21)
Superior				0,33*** ( 7,37)	0,08*** ( 1,18)
<i>Father Education</i>					
Elementary					0,1*** ( 3,93)
High School					0,14*** ( 4,45)
Superior					0,29*** ( 5,65)
Rooms					
Persons					
<i>Fuel</i>					
Electricity					
<i>Region factors</i>					
East					
Pacific					
Center					
Antioquia					
Bogotá					
Orinoquia					
$\mu_0$	-1,13	-1,15	-1,64	-1,67	-1,67
$\mu_1$	0,46	0,068	-0,03	-0,052	-0,052
$\mu_2$	2,24	1,85	1,75	1,78	1,78
Pseudo R2	0,08	0,092	0,092	0,098	0,098
Log likelihood	-17650,78	-17565	-17548	-13991	-13991

\*\*\* P-value&lt;0.01. \*\* P-value&lt;0.05. Z-statistic on parenthesis.

### Concluding Remarks

Order probit estimation confirmed the initial hypothesis about health status determinants. Therefore, the health status of the Colombian people, as an indicator of health capital stock, seems to be determined by two groups of variables. Individual variables as income and education tend to influence positively the health of an individual, while age influences it negatively. A group of institutional or socio-economic variables also affects the health status of a person. An individual in a good employment position in terms of income, living in urban and relatively rich geographical region brings a greater chance of perceiving a good health status. Although people in the contributive regime have better health conditions than the ones in the subsidized regime (the poorest population), which would suggest that the medical care system strengthens the inequalities in terms of health, the purpose of the reform affiliating the vulnerable population is met.

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