

The Effects of Sickness Absence in School on Educational Achievements, Mortality and Income*

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Abstract

This study analyzes the effects of sickness absence in school on short-term educational performance and long-term highest educational degree, income and mortality. Using register data for a representative sample of Swedish students born in the 1930s and followed over the whole lifespan this is the first study that considers long-term effects. To address selection we employ various fixed effects strategies and instrumental variables methods. We find that sickness absence in school reduced the earnings potential in the short-run significantly. The sign of the long-run consequences of sickness absence is in line with economic theory but the effect size is rather small.

Keywords: Absence in school, educational performance, register data

JEL Classification: *C23, I14, I21*

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