

2008 SOCIAL CAPITAL GLOBAL NETWORK WORKSHOP
ON SOCIAL CAPITAL AND HEALTH
OCTOBER 10-11, 2008

**Social Capital and Health in
Argentina**

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Data and Measurement

- Encuesta Desarrollo Social
 - 1997 Argentine Household survey
 - Covers all 24 provinces
 - Approximately 59,000 people
- Sample: Aged 65+ years
 - Approximately 9.6% of the population
 - 5,645 people



Data and Measurement: Health Status

- Health Status

- *Do you have health problems?*

- 1 if any health problems (self-report)
 - 0 if no health problems (self-report)

Data and Measurement: Social Capital

■ *Associational involvement:*

- Number of groups respondent involved in (11 possible groups: 0-11)

- Sports club
- Political party
- Church
- Cultural center
- Labor union
- Nationality group
- Human rights group
- Ecological organization
- Neighborhood association
- School cooperative
- Solidarity association



Data and Measurement: Social Capital

- *Informal social interactions*
 - Index based on 3 factors
 - Often meets with friends
 - Often meets with relatives
 - Person is alone
 - Index construction,
 - Standardize each response: subtract the mean and then divide by the standard deviation
 - Sum the first two factors and subtract the third.

Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean	Std dev	Min	Max
Age	73.126	6.555	65	98
Sex (male=1)	0.409	0.492	0	1
Years of schooling	6.189	4.049	0	17
Income per capita (pesos per month)	345.8	408.4	0	6700
Health problems (yes=1)	0.500	0.500	0	1
Informal social interactions (index)	6.28E-08	1.867	-5.17	2.86
Associational involvement (counts)	0.425	0.845	0	11

5,645 observations

Methodology

- (1) $H_i = \beta SC_i + \delta Z_i + \varepsilon_i$

H_i is health status of individual i ,

SC is social capital (formal and informal),

Z includes age, sex, education, income per capita, and marital status



Econometric Issues

- Endogeneity
 - More health problems → less participation in formal groups and informal groups

- Omitted variables
 - Omitted factors affecting health may correlate with SC

- Solve with exogenous instrumental variable
 - *Lack of Public Transportation in the Neighborhood*
 - 1 if lack of public transportation
 - 0 if no lack of public transportation



First-Stage Estimates

	DV=Informal social interactions		DV= Associational involvement	
	Coef.	std error	Coef.	std err
Lack of public transportation	-0.597***	0.089	0.054	0.041

** $p \leq 0.01$

- 5,645 observations
- Includes province fixed effects, age, sex, education, income per capita, and marital status
- The instrument only passes the Stock-Yogo test (strength test) for informal social interactions

Second-Stage Estimates

	Coef	std error
Informal social interactions (index)	-0.920**	0.167
Age	-0.014*	0.007
Male	-0.072	0.058
Divorced	-0.465**	0.172
Widowed	-0.276**	0.081
Unmarried	-0.884**	0.188
No response (marital status)	0.881	0.831
Years of schooling	-0.001	0.009
Income per capita (pesos per month)	0.00001	0.00008

Individuals in the reference group are female and married

** $p \leq 0.01$, * $p \leq 0.05$

- 5,645 observations

- All regression models include province fixed effects



Conclusion

- Individual social capital (informal social interactions)
 - Positively associated with health status
 - Causally associated with health status (IV)