

Reporting of Days Sick by Proxy Status, Findings from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation

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BACKGROUND

Prior work^{1,2} has shown that overall health and disability reporting differ based on whether a person self-reports or reports by proxy, but research has not yet examined whether days sick reporting differs by proxy status.

1. Rothman ML, Hedrick SC, Bulcroft KA, et al. The validity of proxy-generated scores as measures of patient health status. *Med Care* 1991; 29(2): 115-124.
2. Todorov A, Kirchner C. Bias in proxies' reports of disability: Data from the National Health Interview Survey on Disability. *Am J Public Health* 2000; 90(8): 1248-1253.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Question 1: For the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2014 Wave 1 sample, does the reported number of days sick differ by proxy status?

Question 2: What social and demographic factors predict the number of days sick for self-reports and proxy reports in the SIPP sample

DATA

- Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014 Wave 1.
- The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs.
- For more information, please visit the SIPP website at <www.census.gov/sipp>.

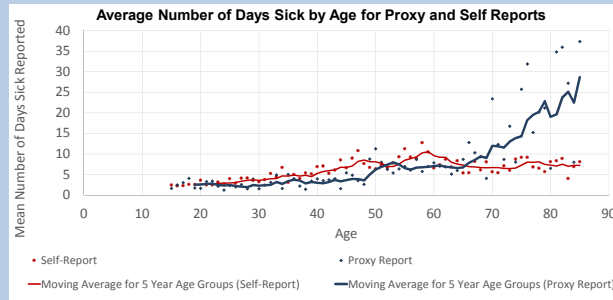
MEASURES

- Reported Days Sick in Previous Year:** *How many days did illness or injury keep [Person Name]... in bed more than half of the day?*
- Proxy Status:** The majority of interviews (n=37969) are self-reports, but when a respondent is unable to report for themselves, a member of the household will report their information in a proxy report (n=15274).
- Expected Correlates of Days Sick and Proxy Status:** age, race/ethnic origin, sex, educational attainment, labor force participation, and self-rated health. All characteristics reported in this poster refer to the person being asked about regardless of whether the interview is a self-report or proxy report.

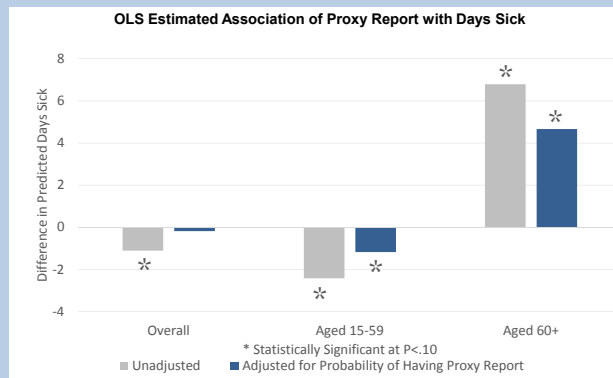
METHODS

- Estimate the average number of days sick by proxy status for the entire sample and at 1 year age intervals between the ages of 15 and 85.
 - In a multiple regression, estimate the difference in the number of days sick for proxy reports adjusting for the probability of having a proxy report.
 - Finally, examine the factors associated with reported days sick in a multiple regression model that stratifies by age (less than 60 years old/more than 60 years old) and proxy status.
- All analyses use unimputed data and appropriate weights.

FINDING 1: SELF-REPORT AND PROXY INTERVIEWS DIFFER IN DAYS SICK REPORTING

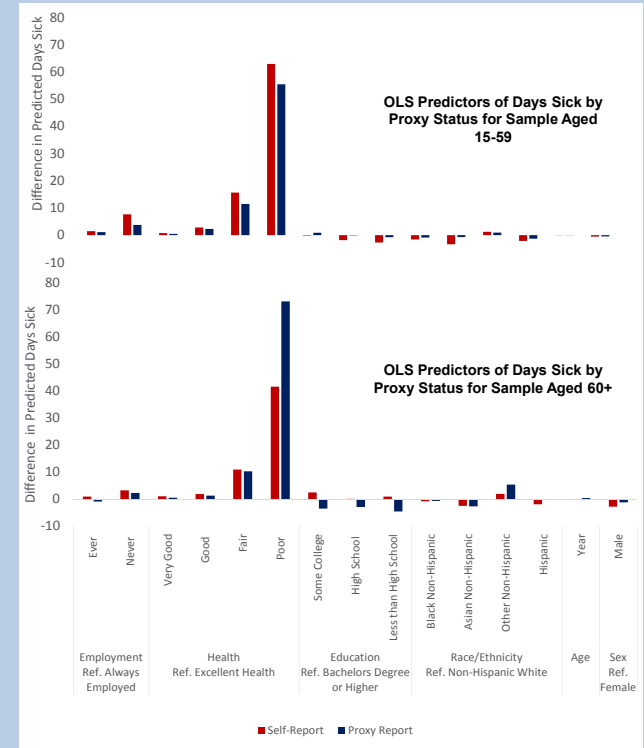


- Between the ages of 15 and 59, self-reports have, on average, 6.10 days sick; proxy reports have 3.67 days sick.
- Above age 60, self-reports have, on average, 7.38 days sick and proxy reports have 14.17 days sick.



- Between the ages of 15 and 59, proxy reports have, on average, 1.18 fewer days sick than self-reports, adjusting for probability of having a proxy report.
- At ages 60 and older, proxy reports have, on average, 4.66 additional days sick compared with self reports, adjusting for probability of having a proxy report.

FINDING 2: SELF-RATED HEALTH IS LARGEST PREDICTOR OF DAYS SICK



- For both age groups and interview types, self-rated health has the largest association with reported days sick in the SIPP sample.
- At ages 60 and older, proxy reports have, on average, more sick days compared with self-reports.

CONCLUSION

- In the SIPP sample, people who report by proxy have, on average, fewer days sick than self-reports between the ages of 15 and 59. At ages 60 and older, proxy reports have, on average, more days sick compared with self-reports.
- For both self-reports and proxy reports, overall health is the largest correlate of number of reported days sick.
- Health selection and differences in perceived health are two possible explanations for the observed "proxy effect" on sick day reporting.