The Accuracy of Self Reported Anthropometric Measures and Self Reported Diabetes in Nationally Representative Samples of Older Adults in Mexico

by

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Abstract

Most recent surveys of older adults include batteries of questions or modules on self-reported chronic conditions as well as on limited self-reported anthropometry. Experience in developed countries with such surveys shows that some self reported conditions possess reasonably high validity. There is much less information on the accuracy of self reported anthropometry. In developing countries, by contrast these problems are virtually unexplored.. This is a problematic gap in our knowledge since no less that ten different surveys in the field right now eliciting information on these characteristics.

In this paper we use two unique data sets to explore the accuracy of self reported diabetes, height, and weight in two samples of adults and older adults in Mexico. In one of these surveys, (ENSA) two glucose tolerance tests (fasting and non-fasting) were carried jointly with the conventional self reported information. In the second survey (MHAS) administered to a nationally representative sample of older adults fifty and over, actual measures of body weight and stature were collected for a sub-sample jointly with self-reported weight and height.

Our analysis probe into the following four issues:(a) the degree of concordance between self report and objective measures; (b) individual determinants of discordance (c) biases in estimates of determinants of diabetes and obesity stemming from self-reports; (d) estimation of conditional correction equations that adjust self-reports