Income Growth Trajectory For Parents Of Children With Down Syndrome In The United States

Citation

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Accessibility
Baseline Characteristics of Study Participants: Pre- vs. Post-Matching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DS study panel</th>
<th>Control panel</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>P-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean age at time of study (years)</td>
<td>86.24 ± 9.02</td>
<td>86.24 ± 9.02</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age difference in annual income (years)</td>
<td>0.039 ± 0.089</td>
<td>0.039 ± 0.095</td>
<td>-0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average change in annual income ($/year)</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average change in annual income (%)</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

- Children of parents with DS had lower mean annual income growth rate than their matched controls (6.4% vs. 6.1%, p = 0.015). Though statistically significant, the magnitude of difference was small (21.9% of the 2014 US median income for men, $50,383 vs. $49,621).
- No statistically significant differences existed in overall mean annual income growth rate when analyzed separately for mothers (6.4% vs. 6.1%, p = 0.015) and fathers (6.7% vs. 6.3%, p = 0.015).
- DS study panel parents of children with DS had lower mean annual income growth rate than their matched controls (4.0% vs. 4.1%, p = 0.027). Though statistically significant, the magnitude of difference was small (0.001).

Conclusions

- Parents of children with DS have lower mean annual income growth compared to those without Down syndrome, though the difference was not statistically significant among mothers and fathers when analyzed separately.
- The finding of lower mean annual income growth for parents of children with DS should be interpreted with caution, as this analysis was unable to account for potential confounding factors such as maternal age, race, and educational attainment.
- The potential impact on income growth is a part of the financial consideration for parents receiving a prenatal diagnosis of DS, as doctors do not consider DS a co-occurring condition. These parents’ low stress and health issues may have a smaller impact on their parents’ income growth trajectory. The DS study panel parents of children with DS who did not consider DS a co-occurring condition had a difference in mean annual income growth between the two groups.

Limitations

- The small sample size of the DS study panel and control groups limited the study’s ability to identify statistically significant differences.
- The study was conducted in the United States and may not be generalizable to other countries or populations.
- The study was limited to parents of DS children with at least one medical claim associated with DS.

References