Abstract

Objective. To analyze household health expenditures on children who are beneficiaries of the Medical Insurance for a New Generation (SMNG), program created in 2007 to cover healthcare costs of children without social security born after December 1st, 2006. Materials and Methods. Using the SMNG National Survey, out-the-pocket and catastrophic spending on child health were calculated using several definitions. Results are presented by socioeconomic level, rural and urban areas and for Oportunidades beneficiaries. Results. About 63.3% of households spent an average annual amount of 3 320 Mexican pesos (MEX$) on healthcare for beneficiary children. Between 4.3 and 11.6% of households experienced catastrophic spending, depending on the definition adopted. Due to economic trouble, 15.5% of households postponed and 10.0% cancelled medical care for their child. Conclusions. Even though children are affiliated to the SMNG, the economic burden associated with attending their health is still an issue for families.

Keywords

Healthcare financing, out-of-pocket expenditure, catastrophic expenditure, Mexico.