

The thesis estimates the effect of the 2008 introduction of regulatory fees for outpatient visits by using 2009 health reform, abolition of co-payments for children, as a natural experiment. To estimate this effect we use micro-level data from EU-SILC survey and two different econometric models - Multinomial logit (MNL) and Zero-inflated negative binomial (ZINB). As co-payments for examination were abolished only for children, we use children as a treatment group and adult part of the population as a control group in difference-in-differences approach. We found an insignificant effect, i.e. introduction of user charges was ineffective in reducing number of doctor visits in Czech Republic. Another important result from this analysis is the significant role of the socio-economic characteristics, associated with the tendency of health-care utilization.