



Living Around the Poverty Line

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1. Introduction
2. Research Question(s)
3. Data
4. The Poverty Line – a comment
5. Results & Implications
6. Future Extensions



1. Introduction


- A 'simple' paper
- Knowledge and data deficit
 - policy formation and analysis
- Literature...
- A paper in development
- Acknowledgements...
- Health warning re. numbers



2. Research Question(s)


- Focus:

the number and composition of people who have incomes around (just above and just below) the poverty line
- Questions:
 - What is the average incomes of groups
 - How many [who] within €5 and €10 of the line
 - Effect of small policy changes on outcome



3. Data

- EU-SILC
 - EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions
 - 2006 microdata
 - sample of 5,836 households and 14,634 individuals
 - weights to correct for non-response etc
 - nationally representative
 - detailed income data



4. The Poverty Line – a comment

- Relative income poverty line
 - 60% of median income
 - €202.49 per adult per week
 - equivalence scales (national used)
 - single adult = €202.49
 - 2 adults = €336.13
 - single parent = €269.31
- Critique
 - just income; but useful; others
 - just above, just below; important?

5. Results - 1

- Using the tables in the handout
- Key points, rather than all (+ Implications)
- **Table 1**
 - explain numbers
 - At risk of poverty: > 60% median
 - 'Deep poverty': > 40% median
 - 3.4%
 - unemployed
 - children
 - workers

Results - 2

- Mean Distances
 - **Table 2**
 - versus 60% median income line
 - explain numbers
 - unemployed
 - ill/disabled
 - single parents
 - self stated very bad health
 - match-up with 'high risk' categories

Results -3

- Around the Poverty Line
 - (i) Below: **Table 3**
 - explain numbers
 - overall
 - workers
 - children
 - unemployed
 - retired

Results -4

- Around the Poverty Line
 - (ii) Above: **Table 4**
 - explain numbers
 - overall
 - unemployed
 - home duties
 - retired
 - ill/disabled
 - children

Results - 5

- Policy Simulations
 - **Tables 5, 6, 7**
 - *ceteris paribus* simulations
 - idea: assess the effect of small policy changes on the poverty line and the numbers we have just examined
 - Example:
 - UB; ↑ €5 pw; = 3.016%↑; apply
 - median income and poverty line

6. Future Extensions

- Look over no. of years (2004-2007)
 - by group
 - longitudinal
- Other lines
 - Vincentian's Budget Standard
 - Consistent poverty / Deprivation
- Further Simulations
 - policies / exchequer costs