Smoking-related Health Inequality in South Africa

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Much has been written about the detrimental effects of smoking and its devastating impact on the health and wellbeing among smokers, but the health consequences across different smoking addiction levels are unknown. This paper provides new evidence on the degree of smoking-related inequality in health outcomes, such as lung diseases in South Africa. Using longitudinal data, we combine the time dimension, which has been shown to be very important in the analysis of inequality. We also show how long-run inequality differs from the short-run inequality. Finally, we decompose this health related smoking mobility index as well as the long-run concentration index (CI) itself into its contributors. We expect that health is smoking addictively distributed and its inequality is likely to be underestimated if individual over time dynamics are ignored.