Abstract

We explore the role that physicians play in moderating the uptake of vaccines for their own patients and their patients’ social networks. Using Danish administrative data on the universe of Danish children and their healthcare providers, we first construct and validate a measure of providers’ propensities to vaccinate based on a two-way fixed effect model. We then show that the constructed measure of provider vaccine facilitation directly affects uptake of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among adolescent patients. Finally, we demonstrate that providers affect decisions beyond those of their own patients, influencing uptake for younger cousins.