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Keeping Warm and Staying Well. Does Home Energy Efficiency Mediate the Relationship between Socio-economic Status and the Risk of Poorer Health?

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Abstract

This paper investigates the relationship between household energy efficiency and health outcomes. The study uses data from the SF36 scorecard to examine the impact of energy efficiency on health outcomes. The results show that energy efficiency has a significant impact on health outcomes, particularly for socio-economic groups that are displaced.

displaced the socio-economic measures when they were included in the predictive

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logistic regression model for self-assessed respondent health. Objective home energy efficiency, measured by SAP ratings, was associated with health in the model independently of the subjective measure. The findings support other evidence that home energy efficiency makes an important contribution to the relationship between lower socio-economic status and poorer health, and document the combined relationship between objective and subjectively measured home energy efficiency and health.

Keywords: Energy efficiency fuel poverty socio-economic status health

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