

Summary

Income inequalities in Barcelona, by territory

Maria Jesús Calvo

This article summarises the study of territorial income distribution in Barcelona. Besides describing the origins and procedures to formulate an indicator to measure the distribution of family income in Barcelona, the study also presents the results and main conclusions obtained from this model for the year 2005.

Based on official figures for income in the city, taken from overall figures for the Catalan economy, a model is constructed by combining different variables that, once aggregated and weighted, enable us to obtain average figures on the income or economic capacity of people residing in the different municipal territories. The territorial units studied are: the city's 248 small research units, the 38 large statistical zones, the ten districts and the city overall.

The variables used to build up the picture of family disposable income provide information about educational levels, employment situation, car fleet characteristics and evolution and prices on the second home property market.

The figures presented do not correspond to individuals or homes; rather, they are theoretical averages applied to people who reside in the different territorial units studied.

Law 12/2007, on social services, in the framework of the new social services policies in Catalonia

Pep Adelantado

Law 12/2007, on social services, approved by the Catalan Parliament, marked an important turning-point in the development of social services policy in Catalonia, particularly as regards guaranteeing social rights for all citizens. This article seeks to describe the context in which this law was drafted and approved with regard to making social rights universal. Firstly, it provides a broad overview of the social changes that are taking place at present and the challenges these pose to social services policy. The article then goes on to describe the development of social services policy in Catalonia and, therefore, the context in which Law 12/2007 on social services was drawn up. Thirdly, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis is made of Law 12/2007. Finally, basic conclusions are drawn from this overall study.

New legislative trends in social services: towards recognition of the subjective and universal social rights.

Toni Vilà

In recent years, we have seen considerable legislative advances in the field of social services in Catalonia. The laws on autonomy and care for dependant people, social services and on economic social provisions, and the Catalan Statute of Autonomy itself form a raft of legislative measures with considerable importance in at least three areas: recognition of access to social services as a subjective right of people; universal access to the system of social services and provisions; and the establishment of a new organisational model based on the principles of inter-administrative cooperation and shared public-private responsibility. However, from a more critical standpoint, we can point out certain limitations and challenges here. In order to make subjective rights and universal access to social services a reality, much will depend on the technical and budget resources devoted to implementing the law. The law will pose important challenges as regards management, particularly in the field of inter-administrative cooperation. In short, despite the advances these laws represent, there is still a long way to go before we can assess their practical effects.

Longevity and dependency, social and economic implications

Montserrat Guillén i Estany

Increasing longevity is measured as rising life expectancy, but should also be studied in terms of the ability to lead a self-dependent life. This article focuses on people aged 65 years and over, discussing the prospects for longevity in our society, and the implications with regard to situations of dependency.

Life expectancy after 65 is calculated, separating the expected duration of life whilst enjoying an acceptable state of health from the years when third-party assistance is required. The cost of caring for the elderly and dependent people is calculated, showing that the public aid provided by the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependents may cover some needs amongst the group concerned, but that individuals or their families will have to become involved in paying for or providing other services. The public system will cover just 15-17% approximately of the expected cost of long-term care for the elderly.

The figures obtained on numbers of dependent people enable us to calculate the potential overall effect on the employ-

ment market of the provision of services and, in individual terms, an estimate of economic costs, useful for planning savings.

Comparative economic inequality of people with disabilities in the city of Barcelona

Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities

This article summarises a study of the comparative economic inequality suffered by people with disabilities in the city of Barcelona.

The purpose of the study is to make an in-depth, objective analysis of the comparative economic inequalities caused by the fact of living with disabilities, that is to say, the extra economic effort that people with disabilities have to make compared to people without disabilities.

The study is based on analysis of statistics, publications and other materials available on the theme of disability, and on the knowledge and opinions of various experts in this field. Qualitative research was also carried out through interviews with people with disabilities, their families and representatives from associations for people with disabilities and professionals and experts in the field of disability.

The study takes into account the whole range of disabilities –physical and intellectual disability, hearing and sight impairments and mental illness– and considers different needs profiles and a wide array of costs: personal care, additional everyday expenses, opportunity costs of individuals and their families, and supporting environment. It also takes into account the public services provided as a factor reducing the magnitude of inequalities. All this information is systemised and weighed up in order to formulate the estimated costs of these inequalities.

Dependent elderly people in Barcelona

Josep Ferrando, Maica Rodríguez-Sanz, Albert Espelt, Aina Plaza, Joaquim Costa, Carme Borrell

The aim of this article is to describe the magnitude and evolution of dependence in the city of Barcelona amongst people aged over 65, and their principal socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

In 2006, some 48.8% of people aged 65 and over in Barcelona presented some degree of dependence. This means that between 145,334 and 186,095 Barcelonans were dependent to some extent. Of these, 20.2% presented minimum dependen-

cies, 10.7% moderate dependencies, 7.9% severe dependencies and 4% maximum dependencies. Dependence is more prevalent amongst women (57.1%) than amongst men (35.4% of those aged 65 or over) in older age groups and the less-favoured social classes. Numbers of dependent people in Barcelona have increased in recent years. The Eixample district is that with the highest dependent population.

The dependent population had a high perception of social support, but this decreased as the degree of dependency increased. In both men and women, less severe dependencies were higher in the less-favoured social classes and amongst people with lower income and level of studies. Some 75.9% of dependent people reported serious difficulties in carrying out at least some everyday activities.

Implementing the law to promote personal autonomy and care for dependent people in Barcelona

Albert Espelt, Josep Rodríguez-Roca, Aina Plaza, Teresa Roigé, Pilar Landeira, Josep Farrés

Spain has approved the Law to promote personal autonomy and care for people in a situation of dependency. Caring for dependent people and promoting their personal autonomy is one of the main challenges to social policy in the developed countries. As is pointed out in the text of the law itself, its challenge is to attend to the needs of particularly vulnerable people who require help to carry out the basic everyday activities, achieve greater personal autonomy and fully exercise their rights as citizens.

A model has been established for the gradual application of the law, which will see its provisions fully applied over the course of the 2007-2015 period. The target population in 2007 are people with a high degree of dependency (“third degree”), a group that is relatively small but highly complex in terms of care needs. Subsequently, those with severe and moderate degrees of dependency will begin to be covered by the law’s provisions. This gradual implementation will enable a dynamic planning and organisational process to be applied to social services, which will adapt the responses necessary for the beneficiary population and the services involved.

This article contains a summary of the legal context for evaluating and providing care to dependent people in Barcelona, as well as reviewing the impact of the new law over the first year since it was entered on the statute books.

Applying the law on dependency: challenges for local authority management

Albert Serra, Pau Mas

Law 39/2006, of December 14, on promoting personal autonomy and caring for people in a situation of dependency, began to be applied in January 2007, marking a historical development in Spanish welfare legislation. The law introduces a highly complex system in terms of technical and organisational issues and finance, requiring management and organisational machinery that still does not exist even today and places the administration in a delicate position. This is the case, particularly, of local authorities. The main purpose of this article is to study the problems that arise at the local level, presenting their principal magnitudes and putting forward recommendations, as well as indicating critical factors for success that should be the focus of attention for all those involved in the design, delivery and production of services to care for dependent people.

Study of people officially recognised as having disabilities in the city of Barcelona

Aina Plaza, Albert Espelt, Josep Farrés, M. Rosario Borda, Laura Trujillo, Roser Torrentó

The object of this study is to survey and describe predominant traits amongst members of the population issued with the official certificate of disability resident in Barcelona, and to compare this with the data expected from the community based on the Survey of Disabilities, Impairments and State of Health carried out in 1999 by the National Statistics Institute, along with socio-demographic characteristics, types and degrees of disability, and to ascertain the link between degree of disability and age, gender and type of disability.

The study was drawn up using the database of people recognised as having disabilities by the Department for Social Action and the Citizen in 2006.

There are 106,265 people with the official certificate in Barcelona this year. Whilst more men than women have the certificate (67.6‰, compared to 64.9‰), women present both a higher rate and higher degrees of disability (17.1‰ and 15.2‰ respectively). The elderly form the predominant age group.

Amongst people with the certificate, 46.3% are in the 35-64 age group. Women and the elderly are the groups where fewer people have the official certificate of disability.

The highest percentages of motor physical disabilities and

mental illness are amongst women, whilst men account for the highest numbers of non-motor physical disabilities and mental disabilities.

The main vulnerability variables with the highest degree of disability are visual impairment, 85 years or more and women.

Technical and legislative reasons for a universal basic income

Daniel Raventós

This study focuses on describing the technical advantages of an absolutely crucial universal measure, basic income (BI), developed by various academic studies in recent years. By BI we mean: income paid by the State as a right to all full members or residents of a society, even if they do not perform remunerated work, regardless of whether they are rich or poor or, to put it another way, of any other sources of income they may have and regardless of who they may live with. The article then provides a description of certain social objectives that BI could achieve. Next, certain brief reflections are noted on the current tax system and on the possible way of financing BI. Finally, the work reviews the prospects for BI in various countries, including a reference to the parliamentary debates over different proposals for laws introducing BI in Catalonia and Spain as a whole.

Universal social services, from within.

A reflection on the aims, technical content and structure and management of social services in and for the process of making such services universal

Fernando Fantova

Within a context marked by the Spanish Parliament's approval of Law 39/2006, of December 14, on promoting personal autonomy and caring for people in a situation of dependency, and the Catalan Parliament's approval of Law 12/2007, on social services, this article discusses certain conditions that may help to make access to social services a universal social right enjoyed by all citizens. The article refers to the definition of the laws' object with regard to promoting and protecting a certain good that everyone should, in principle, be able to understand as necessary and desirable, as occurs in other fields of action aimed at the common good (and other social rights). Based on a proposed conceptualisation, the author also identifies certain character-

istics of social intervention carried out within the social services, and its structure and management, which could contribute to the process of making social services a universal right, without ignoring the fact that this process should be supported, to a large extent, by legal and economic factors not considered in the article.

Sports habits in Barcelona, 2006

Marta Carranza, Joana Carbó

The article presents the results from the fourth survey of sports habits in Barcelona (2006).

The main objective of this study is to gather more in-depth information on the Barcelona's population relations to sport and playing sports. The information will be used to adapt the city's sports services and facilities more closely to the needs and de-

mands of its citizens, improving management of the economic, material and human resources available, both overall and on a territorial basis.

This survey and the comparative analysis of the data compared to earlier studies (1989, 1995 and 1999) outlined here will help to formulate the strategic guidelines for promoting sport in the city.

The proportion of people interviewed who take part in some kind of sporting activity increased by 18.3 compared to 1995, though proportionately fewer women than men continue to practice a sport of some kind (48.2% of women compared to 51.8% of men).

The diversified sporting practices in the city show differences according to gender and age group, general opinions of physical and sports activities, membership of sports clubs and sport for the family.