

# **Inequalities in health and the geography of morbidity in Spain**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the decision making setting that has led to the devolution process in Spain. The decision to develop a decentralized state is modelled as a trade off between preference for diversity vs. inequality aversion. We show examining empirical data available for the eighties and nineties that the distribution of resources between regional health services do not show a significant association with regional health care needs defined by morbidity indicators. Political constraints instead have been driven the devolution process where once the devolution process has developed a new process of uniformity guided by a hypothetical regional inequality aversion is being imposed. The paper finds small inequalities in health although inequalities being associated with the possibility of different health system to develop heterogeneous regional health policies.