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Sex selection and health at birth among Indian immigrants

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Highlights

- I document strongly son-biased sex ratios at birth for Indian immigrants in Spain.
- Children of Indian immigrants have poor health, relative to other immigrants.
- I find no gender gap in infant health among the children of Indian immigrants.
- The lack of a gender gap in health is likely driven by abortion of unwanted girls.

Abstract: I use birth-certificate data for Spain to document extremely son-biased sex ratios at birth among Indian immigrants (122 boys per 100 girls), especially at higher parities. I also show that the children of Indian immigrants display poor health outcomes during infancy. For instance, almost 10% of boys with Indian parents are born prematurely, compared with 6% of boys with native parents. However, there is no evidence of a gender gap in infant health among the children of Indian immigrants. I provide evidence suggesting that the poor outcomes of Indian children at birth may be

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