Econometrics in the Charitable Sector: Models and Data

Burton A. Weisbrod


I. Donations of Money

A. Determinants of aggregate giving

1. Predictive (e.g., PGEM) vs. structural (supply/demand models)
2. Variables
   a. tax prices (marginal)
   b. tax levels--disposable vs. personal income
   c. government expenditures--substitutes and complements
   d. exogenous changes in attitudes (willingness to give) --
      e.g., recent United Way case
   e. contemporaneous vs. lagged (and lead) variables;
      reputation effects
   f. fundraising expenditures by donee organizations
   g. scale economies or diseconomies, and number of
      nonprofits competing for funds
   h. commercial activities of nonprofits--effects on donations
   i. inter-generational effects

B. Disaggregate giving

1. Tax-deductible (501(c)(3)) vs. other organizations (e.g., (c)(4))
2. Inter-industry differentials. Variables under IA2, above.

II. Donations of Time

A. Aggregate and by industry
B. Nonprofit, government, and private enterprise
C. Supply vs. demand models
D. Intergenerational supply-side effects
E. Intra-family supply
F. Relationships between volunteer activity and paid labor

III. Donations of money and time -- joint model
IV. Nonprofits, for-profits, and governmental producers--modeling choice

A. Supplier choices among institutional forms
B. Consumer preferences among institutional forms
C. Competition in institutionally-mixed industries