

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Sex selection and health at birth among Indian immigrants

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PII: S1570-677X(17)30052-7
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.02.003>
Reference: EHB 697

To appear in: *Economics and Human Biology*

Received date: 21-2-2017
Revised date: 25-1-2018
Accepted date: 5-2-2018

Please cite this article as: González, Libertad, Sex selection and health at birth among Indian immigrants. *Economics and Human Biology* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.02.003>

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Sex selection and health at birth among Indian immigrants

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January 2018

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I thank Alessandro Tarozzi for his useful comments, as well as attendees at the COSME Gender Economics Workshop 2015, the internal applied seminar at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and the Oxford Workshop on Welfare, Immigration and Health. I acknowledge financial support from ICREA.

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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