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Abstract

Aim - to construct the **multidimensional measure of quality of life** and compare quality of life of **persons with disabilities to the population without disabilities**.

Concept - applying **Sen's capability approach** and **Quality of Life framework developed within the European Statistical System** to construct the QoL scores.

Results - lower average multi-dimensional QoL for persons with disabilities in comparison to those without disabilities in Poland; in 1 dimension (education) persons with disability experience on average higher QoL.

Introduction

The concepts of quality of life (QoL) of persons with disabilities are usually developed specifically for this group.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underlines acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of humanity.

There are very few comparisons of Quality of Life between persons with and without disabilities.

Comparison of QoL between persons with and without disabilities - crucial for public policy.

In our approach we focus on domains which are relevant across both populations with and without disabilities.

Conclusions

The study applies the **same methodology** to measure multidimensional quality of life of **people with and without disabilities**.

The results confirmed **lower overall quality of life of persons with disabilities**, yet the distance varies between nine dimensions.

These results point to specific life dimensions requiring **stronger policy focus than others**.

Methods and Materials

The identification for persons with disabilities based on **activities of daily living limitation (ADL)**.

Quality of life was assessed using holistic QoL measurement model following European Statistical System approach (Eurostat, 2016).

Conceptual model based on capability approach (Sen, 1985, 1992) for individuals.

The QoL scores in dimensions constructed **using multiply indicators and multiple causes model (MIMIC) model** (Hauser & Goldberger, (1971) and single measure of overall QoL - **using principal component analysis**.

Results

Overall quality of life of persons **with disabilities is significantly lower than persons without disabilities**.

In 8 out of 9 QoL **dimensions**, persons with disabilities experience lower quality of life, however, the distance differs in particular dimensions.

- the **biggest difference** was observed in the **health, leisure and overall life experience dimensions**,
- the lowest - basic rights, material conditions.

In 1 dimension – **education** – the value of relevant QoL measure **was higher for persons with disabilities** than without disabilities.

Distribution of QoL - **significantly higher density in the right tail of the distribution among people without disabilities**,

- lower average score of persons with disabilities may be a result of lower share of those who experience high QoL.

Table 1. Kernel estimation of **overall quality of life** density function for person with and without disabilities on Poland.

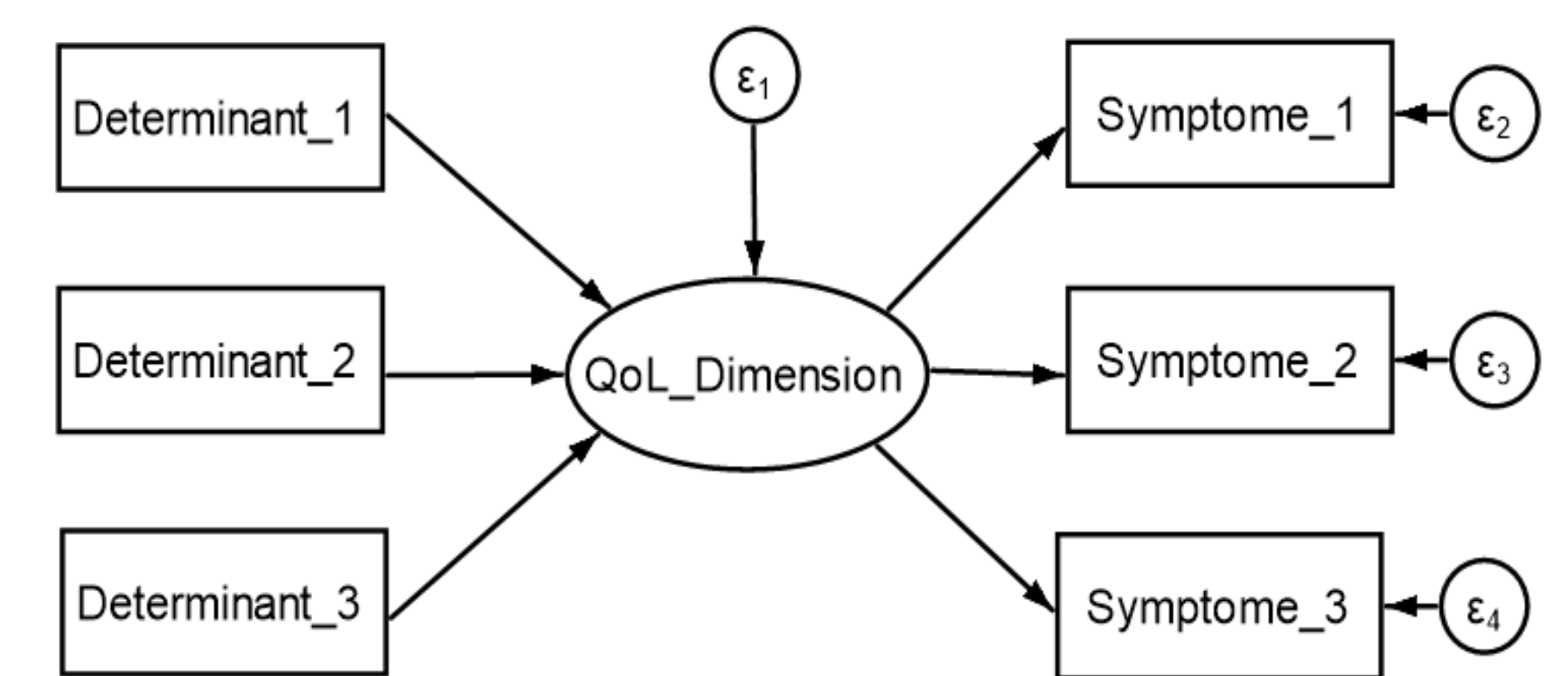
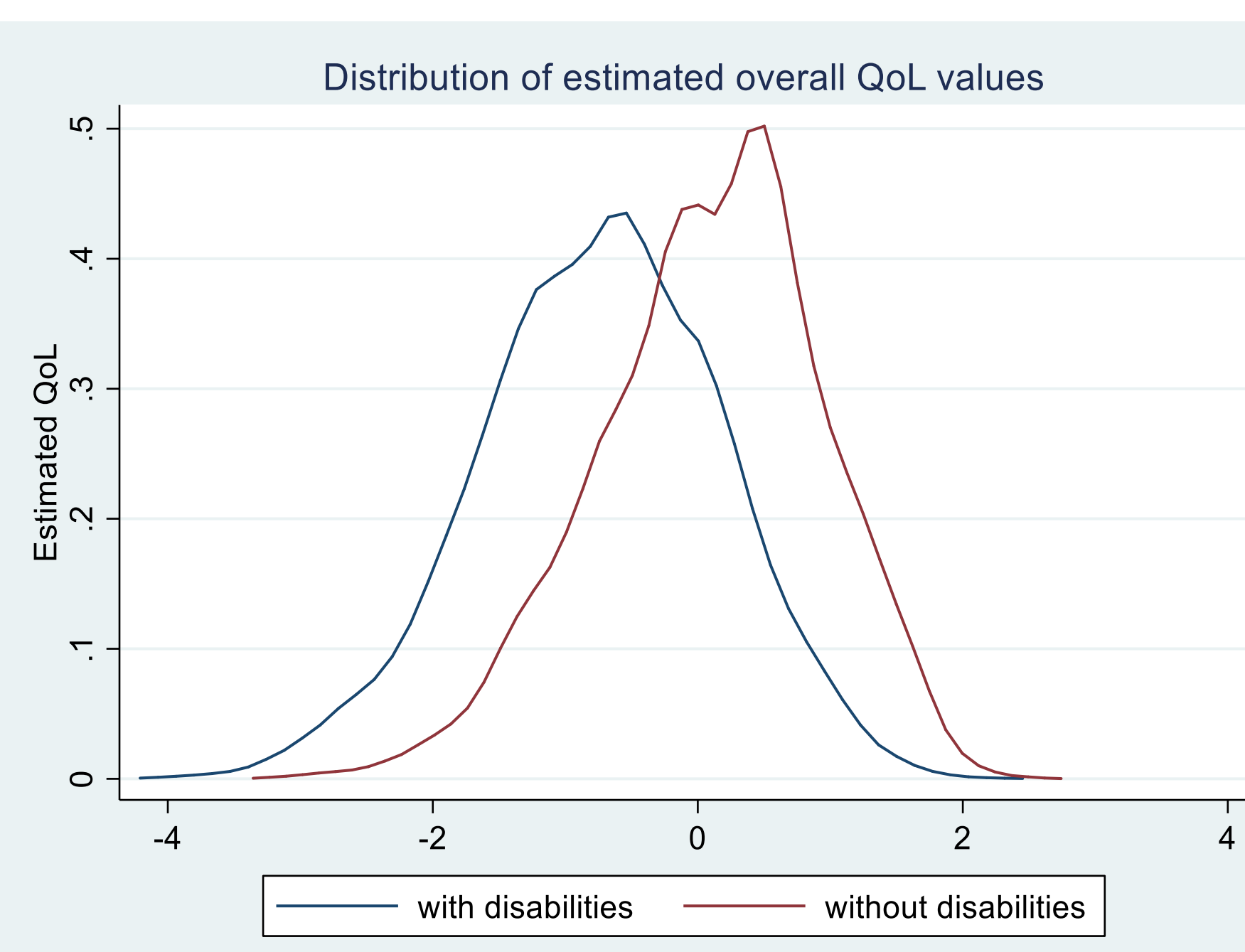
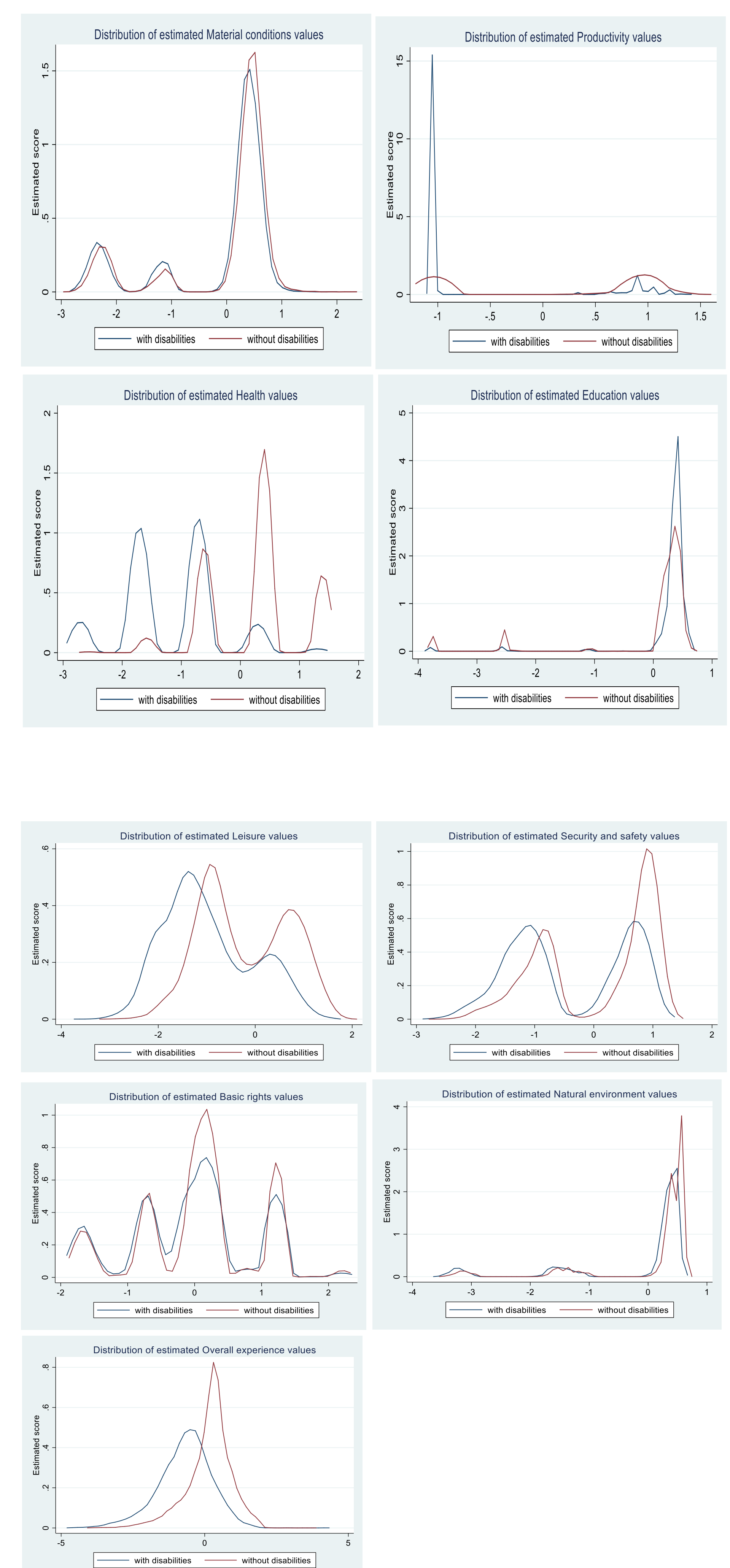


Chart 1. Quality of Life MIMIC model – simplification.

The distribution of quality of life scores is presented **using Kernel density estimators** and the differences between the groups were evaluated using and T-test.

All analysis were based on 2015 **EU-SILC data** for Poland.

Figure 2. Kernel estimation of **quality of life density function by dimensions** in population with and without disabilities in Poland



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