

A Quasi-Experimental Protocol for Evaluating Clinical Outcomes in Ghana's Urban Primary Care Networks

A Methodological Framework

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ABSTRACT

Background: Ghana's urban primary care networks (UPCNs) represent a major health system reform, yet robust evidence on their impact on clinical outcomes is lacking. Existing evaluations often rely on cross-sectional or descriptive designs, limiting causal inference about the effectiveness of these integrated service delivery models.

Purpose and objectives: This protocol details a quasi-experimental study designed to evaluate the causal effect of UPCN enrolment on key clinical outcomes for hypertension and type 2 diabetes. The primary objective is to estimate the network's impact on medication adherence and systolic blood pressure control.

Keywords: *Primary Health Care, Quasi-Experimental Design, Clinical Outcomes, Sub-Saharan Africa, Health Systems Reform, Urban Health Services, Ghana*

Article Highlights

- Controlled before-and-after study across four urban districts in Ghana
- Matched intervention and control facilities on size and baseline performance
- Difference-in-differences analysis with linear mixed-effects modelling
- Focus on hypertension and diabetes outcomes in primary care networks

Study Design

Quasi-experimental protocol employing a controlled before-and-after design with 12 matched intervention and 12 control facilities, recruiting an estimated 1,440 patients with hypertension or type 2 diabetes.

This article presents a study protocol; empirical findings will follow in subsequent research.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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