

A Randomised Field Trial Evaluating the Adoption of Community Health Centre Systems in Kenya

A Methodological Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Community health centres are a cornerstone of primary healthcare delivery in sub-Saharan Africa, yet systematic evidence on the factors influencing their adoption and integration into local health systems remains limited. Methodological rigour in evaluating such complex interventions in real-world settings is a persistent challenge.

Purpose and objectives: This methodological case study aimed to design and implement a randomised field trial to rigorously evaluate the adoption rates of a standardised community health centre system. The primary objective was to demonstrate a robust experimental framework for measuring adoption, isolating causal effects from contextual noise.

Keywords: *Randomised controlled trial, Community health centres, Sub-Saharan Africa, Implementation science, Health systems research, Kenya, Adoption rates*

Article Highlights

- Cluster-randomised trial across 120 rural communities demonstrated methodological feasibility.
- Intervention showed a 22 percentage point increase in mean adoption index versus control.
- Local health worker champions emerged as critical for procedural adherence.
- Study provides a robust experimental framework to isolate causal effects from contextual noise.

Methodological Note

Primary analysis used an intention-to-treat approach with a mixed-effects linear probability model, with robust standard errors clustered at the community level.

This case study advances methodological rigour for evaluating complex health interventions in real-world settings.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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