

Evaluating the Impact of Urban Primary Care Networks on Clinical Outcomes in Tanzania

A Difference-in-Differences Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Background: Strengthening primary care is a critical component of health systems reform in sub-Saharan Africa. Urban primary care networks (UPCNs) have been implemented in several regions to improve service integration and quality, but rigorous quantitative evidence of their impact on clinical outcomes remains limited.

Purpose and objectives: This study aimed to quantify the causal effect of a large-scale UPCN initiative on key clinical outcomes for adult patients with hypertension and diabetes in urban Tanzania.

Keywords: *primary care networks, sub-Saharan Africa, health systems strengthening, difference-in-differences, Tanzania, clinical outcomes, urban health*

Article Highlights

- Quasi-experimental analysis reveals causal impact of integrated primary care networks.
- Significant improvement in hypertension control observed in urban Tanzanian facilities.
- More modest effects documented for glycaemic control and medication adherence.
- Study provides evidence for scaling structured network models in similar contexts.

Methodological Note

Difference-in-differences analysis of longitudinal patient data from routine health information systems, with cluster-robust inference.

This analysis offers causally identified evidence for health systems strengthening.

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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