

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

*A Difference-in-Differences Analysis*

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Strengthening primary healthcare is a global priority for achieving universal health coverage. In Rwanda, the establishment of urban primary care networks (UPCNs) represents a major health system reform, but rigorous quantitative evidence of their impact on clinical outcomes is limited.

**Purpose and objectives:** This study aimed to quantify the causal effect of UPCN implementation on key clinical outcome indicators in urban settings.

**Keywords:** *primary healthcare, universal health coverage, sub-Saharan Africa, health systems evaluation, difference-in-differences, clinical outcomes, urban health*

### Article Highlights

- Quasi-experimental analysis reveals significant 12.4pp increase in maternal antenatal care completion.
- No significant effects detected for childhood immunization or hypertension control in study period.
- Study provides first causal evidence on clinical impact of Rwanda's urban primary care networks.
- Findings suggest need for domain-specific adaptations to the network model.

### Methodological Note

Difference-in-differences analysis with facility-level matching and cluster-robust inference.

*Focuses on causal inference from health facility panel data in urban Rwanda.*

## 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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