

# Evaluating the Impact of Community Health Centres on Population Health Risk in Tanzania

*A Quasi-Experimental Assessment*

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Received: 10 April 2002 | Accepted: 18 June 2002 | Published: 06 August 2002 | DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18952326](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18952326)

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Community health centres are a cornerstone of primary healthcare delivery in sub-Saharan Africa, yet robust evidence quantifying their impact on population-level health risk is limited. Existing evaluations often lack rigorous counterfactual comparisons.

**Purpose and objectives:** This study aimed to estimate the causal effect of enhanced community health centre systems on composite health risk scores in a rural population, using a quasi-experimental design to address selection bias.

**Keywords:** *sub-Saharan Africa, community health centres, population health, quasi-experimental design, health risk reduction, Tanzania, primary healthcare*

### Article Highlights

- Difference-in-differences design estimates causal effect of health centre strengthening.
- Integrated programme rollout across 120 villages provided quasi-experimental variation.
- Findings demonstrate significant reduction in composite health risk scores.
- Study offers methodological blueprint for real-world health system evaluation.

### Methodological Note

The analysis employs a rigorous difference-in-differences design with household panel data and two-way fixed effects to address selection bias in evaluating non-randomised programme implementation.

*This study provides causal evidence for health centre investment using robust quasi-experimental methods.*

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