

# Evaluating the Impact of Community Health Centres on Clinical Outcomes in Ghana

*A Difference-in-Differences Model*

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Community health centres are a cornerstone of primary healthcare delivery in many African nations, yet robust quantitative evidence of their impact on specific clinical outcomes remains limited. This gap complicates evidence-based policy and resource allocation.

**Purpose and objectives:** This case study aimed to rigorously evaluate the causal effect of a national community health centre programme on maternal and child health outcomes, specifically antenatal care completion and childhood immunisation rates.

**Keywords:** *Primary healthcare, Sub-Saharan Africa, Clinical outcomes, Difference-in-differences, Health systems evaluation, Ghana*

### Article Highlights

- Quasi-experimental design reveals causal impact of community health centres on maternal care.
- Significant 8.7 percentage point increase in antenatal visit completion observed.
- Null finding for immunisation rates suggests differential programme effects across services.
- Study provides robust evidence to inform primary healthcare policy in Ghana.

### Methodological Note

Analysis employs a difference-in-differences model with district and time fixed effects to estimate causal effects, addressing selection bias inherent in observational health data.

*This evaluation offers policymakers specific evidence on where a national primary care programme succeeds and where strengthening may be needed.*

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