

# Evaluating the Impact of Rural Clinic Systems in Senegal

*A Quasi-Experimental Analysis of Clinical Outcomes*

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Access to quality healthcare in rural sub-Saharan Africa remains a critical challenge. While clinic systems are a cornerstone of health policy, rigorous evidence on their causal impact on clinical outcomes is limited, particularly in West African contexts.

**Purpose and objectives:** This study aimed to quantify the causal effect of a national rural clinic system on key clinical outcomes in a West African setting, moving beyond descriptive association to robust impact evaluation.

**Keywords:** *sub-Saharan Africa, rural health services, quasi-experimental design, health systems evaluation, Senegal, clinical outcomes, primary healthcare*

### Article Highlights

- Quasi-experimental analysis reveals causal impact of rural clinic deployment in Senegal.
- 18.2 percentage point reduction in severe malaria diagnoses attributed to clinic access.
- Effects concentrated in districts most distant from pre-existing urban health infrastructure.
- Demonstrates effectiveness of primary healthcare delivery via systematic clinic rollout.

### Methodological Approach

Difference-in-differences design leveraging phased clinic rollout across districts, with district and time fixed effects controlling for confounding.

*This analysis provides causally identified evidence for health policy in rural West Africa.*

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