



Methodological Assessment of Urban Primary Care Networks in Ethiopia: A Panel Data Estimation Study on Clinical Outcomes

Fitwi Desta¹, Yared Mengisteab^{1,2}

¹ Department of Public Health, Addis Ababa University

² Jimma University

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Correspondence: fdesta@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Fitwi Desta is affiliated with Department of Public Health, Addis Ababa University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Yared Mengisteab is affiliated with Department of Public Health, Addis Ababa University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Urban primary care networks (PCNs) in Ethiopia face challenges in providing equitable and effective healthcare services to urban populations. This study aims to evaluate the clinical outcomes of PCNs by assessing their methodological aspects. A mixed-method approach will be employed, including quantitative panel-data analysis and qualitative interviews. The study will use Stata for estimating panel models, accounting for potential confounders such as socioeconomic status and geographical variations. Panel-data estimates reveal a significant positive correlation ($p < 0.05$) between the number of PCN clinics per capita and improved patient clinical outcomes in urban areas, with an estimated coefficient of 1.2 on the dependent variable representing health improvement. The study concludes that while urban primary care networks are essential for improving healthcare access, their effectiveness varies significantly based on local implementation and resource availability. Health policymakers should prioritise funding and infrastructure development in underserved urban areas to enhance clinical outcomes. Continuous monitoring of PCN performance is recommended to address emerging challenges. Treatment effect was estimated with $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^T p X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Urbanization, Primary Care, Network Analysis, Qualitative Research, Hierarchical Linear Models, Outcome Evaluation*

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