African Epidemiology Research (Clinical/Biostats focus)

Bayesian Hierarchical Model for Evaluating Clinical Outcomes in Community Health Centres Systems in Tanzania,

Mwakwaya David[1], **Simiyu Samuel**[1], **Kambaragwa Julius**[2]

[1] Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)

[2] Mkwawa University College of Education

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Correspondence: mdavid@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Mwakwaya David is affiliated with Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Simiyu Samuel is affiliated with Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Kambaragwa Julius is affiliated with Mkwawa University College of Education and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Clinical outcomes in community health centers (CHCs) are critical for assessing health service effectiveness and public health impact in developing countries like Tanzania. However, accurately measuring these outcomes often requires complex statistical models due to variability across different CHCs and time periods. A Bayesian hierarchical linear mixed-effects model will be employed to analyse data from multiple CHCs. This approach allows for modelling the complex relationships among clinical outcomes, patient characteristics, and contextual factors across different centers and time points, with robust uncertainty quantification provided through credible intervals. The analysis revealed significant within-centre variability in clinical outcomes, indicating that standardising care protocols may not be sufficient to improve outcomes uniformly across all CHCs. Furthermore, the model estimated a moderate effect of distance from urban areas on patient health status, suggesting potential geographical disparities in healthcare accessibility and quality. This study demonstrates the utility of Bayesian hierarchical models for understanding clinical performance in diverse settings like Tanzania's community health centers, offering insights that can inform policy decisions aimed at improving service delivery efficiency and equity. Policy makers should consider implementing targeted interventions based on findings from this analysis to address specific CHC strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, further research is needed to validate these results using larger datasets or longitudinal studies. Bayesian hierarchical models, clinical outcomes, community health centers, Tanzania Treatment effect was estimated with $text\{logit\}(\pi) = beta0 + \vec{\beta} p X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *African Geography, Bayesian Hierarchical Models, Community Health Centers, Epidemiology, Geographic Information Systems, Methodological Evaluation, Public Health Analysis*

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