Asian Development Bank - International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Video Lecture Series

Impact evaluations of health sector projects and programmes

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What is an impact evaluation?

Impact evaluation measures the net change in outcomes for a particular group of people that can be attributed to a specific programme using the best methodology available.
Impact evaluations in health

- Health outcomes include anthropometric indices, biometric testing and mortality
- Outcomes such as mortality not always possible to measure
- Strong theory of change is needed to identify intermediary outcomes

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Scaling up male circumcision services
Context

• 40 million currently infected with HIV

• Majority in Sub-Saharan Africa

• Evidence from randomised controlled trials that male circumcision reduces spread of HIV

• What strategy is most effective in improving the take-up of male circumcision?

Study Source:
Thornton R, Chinkhumba J, Godlonton S and Pierotti R 2013. Scaling up male circumcision service provision: results from a randomized evaluation in Malawi. 3ie Grantee Final Report,. New Delhi: 3ie
Study objectives

Fill the gap in knowledge about the demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Malawi

Study answers the following questions:
- Does demand for male circumcision respond to price changes?
- Does more information lead to increased demand for male circumcision?
Study used randomised controlled trial with the unit of randomisation being the individual.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Individual men</th>
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<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Individual men</td>
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<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Individual men</td>
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Project area and sample

- Malawi, Lilongwe
- Within catchment area of partner clinic
- Census enumeration areas were randomly selected
- Blocks randomly selected from census enumeration areas
- Males between 18-35 years, randomly selected from households
- Randomisation within blocks (both control and treatment from same blocks)
Overview

Baseline (Early 2010)
- 1634 uncircumcised men selected
  - Vouchers randomly distributed to all men with different price discounts

Allocation (Early 2010)
- Randomly assigned across 1 trial arm + control
  - 817 men – information
  - 817 men – no information
Malawian kwacha is the currency of Malawi; 1 MKW = 0.002 USD (as on 26 June 2014)
Results

Response to Information

Take-Up: Follow-up sample
Qualitative analysis

- In-depth interviews conducted with 64 men at follow-up
- Interviews revealed several barriers:
  - Opportunity costs
  - Fear of pain
  - Availability of accurate information
  - Unreliable service provision
Conclusions

• The adoption of male circumcision is not affected by prices or information

• Significant demand generation efforts are needed to make this HIV prevention strategy effective
Final thoughts

• Impact evaluations of health programmes – a necessity

• Impact evaluations can guide policy decisions including allocation of resources (cost effectiveness)

• Non-significant findings as important as significant ones