Effect of EPHC on Family Planning, Prenatal Care Visit, and Birth Weight in South Texas

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Introduction

• Expanded Primary Health Care (EPHC) provides insurance to women who previously had no insurance coverage

• Electronic Health Records (EHR) from CentroMed used to collect data since EPHC implementation

• Early Trends show some impact on family planning and gestational age

• Potential for future studies
Background

- Experts agree that family planning and contraceptive access should be a major research goal of coming years.
- Medicaid costs of unplanned pregnancies are 1.3 billion annually in Texas.¹
- 2011 funding cuts to women’s health in Texas.
- EPHC implemented in Nov. 2013 to compensate with these cuts, with several goals including:
  - Increase the number of women receiving primary and preventive care services.
  - Reduce the number of preterm births.

Methodology

• Data collected for time period EPHC has been implemented, Nov.1, 2013 – Present
• Data used for Women aged 18-44, eligible for EPHC
• Data extracted directly from EHR system, where it was directly input
• Standards from American College of Obstetrics used to determine trimester of gestation at OB intake
• Birth Weight ranges used from CDC definitions
Results

Family Planning Visits

Number Of Visits

Month Of Visit

Oct-13 Nov-13 Dec-13 Jan-14 Feb-14 Mar-14 Apr-14 May-14
Results

Gestational Age at First OB appointment

Month of First OB Visit

Number of First OB Visits

- 1st Trimester
- 2nd Trimester
- 3rd Trimester
Results

Birth Weight Outcomes

Number of Deliveries

Month of Delivery

- Nov-13
- Dec-13
- Jan-14
- Feb-14
- Mar-14
- Apr-14
- May-14
- Jun-14
- Jul-14

Legend:
- High
- Normal
- Low
Discussion

• Overall trends show increase in family planning visits
• Gestational age at intake also shows potential of fewer first OB visits in 2nd and 3rd trimesters
• Birth weight outcomes showed no clear trend
• Likely too early in program implementation to see trends in birth weights
• Future research could continue to follow birth weights for those that had first OB visits during EPHC period
Conclusion

• Implementation of EPHC is showing impact of family planning visits
• Also indications that EPHC is helping women to start prenatal care sooner
• Impact on birth weight will have to be studied in the future
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