

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Improving Maternal Health through Prenatal Care Home Visits: Evidence from Mexico City”

Wednesday, MARCH 20, 2019

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



This paper evaluates a program that aims to address low levels of prenatal care utilization and improve maternal health: Doctor at Your Home. This program was adopted by Mexico City’s Ministry of Health in 2014. Through the program, social workers visit households looking for pregnant women without prenatal care and refer them to a health center for prenatal care consults. Using data from birth certificates and administrative records over 2008–2017, this paper evaluates the effect of this intervention on prematurity, low birth weight, and maternal mortality rates. The empirical approach takes advantage of the program’s roll out. In particular, it uses variation in the time the program began operating in each Mexico City county to estimate a differences-in-differences model. In addition, this paper uses as control group those counties that integrate the Mexico City Metropolitan Area, which share demographic characteristics with Mexico City’s counties but were not treated.



[Johabed Olvera](#) is a PhD candidate in the Public Affairs program at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, concentrating in policy analysis and public management. Her research interests include policy implementation, evaluation, and management in developing countries with a regional focus on Latin America. She specializes in health and welfare programs targeting vulnerable population. Johabed holds a BA in international affairs from Universidad de las Américas-Puebla, and a MPA from CIDE.

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).