

TITLE: Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion: Impact on use of sexual and reproductive health services for women living in rural and urban Oregon

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makers

ABSTRACT: Objectives: We examined the effect of Medicaid Expansion on use of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services for Medicaid-enrolled women of reproductive age (WRA) living in rural and urban areas of Oregon. Methods: Using linked Oregon Medicaid enrollment files and claims, we identified WRA between 2008-2016. Outcome variables included receipt of contraceptive services, counseling sessions, well-woman visits, STI screenings, and pap tests. Key independent variables were rurality (urban, large rural cities, and small rural towns, using Rural Urban Commuting Area Category B); and an indicator for the post-Medicaid Expansion time period (2014-2016). We used time series design and ordinary least square regression models to examine the impact of Medicaid expansion on the outcomes, controlling for age, race, and time trends. Results: Following the implementation of Medicaid Expansion, the average number of all five SRH services/woman increased for all women. With the exception of contraceptive services, the average number of SRH services/woman increased more for urban women than for women living in small rural towns. Implications: The findings emphasize the ongoing and significant disparities in the use of SRH services for women of reproductive age in rural areas, and warrant continued efforts to improve access to SRH services for rural populations.

OBJECTIVE(S): Assess the effect of Medicaid expansion on the use of Medicaid-financed sexual and reproductive health services for women of reproductive age in rural and urban areas of Oregon.
