

ACCESS | Assessing Community Cancer Care After Insurance Expansion

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Some states implemented Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansions while other states did not, thus creating a natural experiment to study the impact of increased access to health insurance on cancer screening, cancer preventive services, and cancer survivor care. This innovative, timely study will use electronic health record (EHR) data from the ADVANCE clinical data research network (CDRN) of PCORnet, which has EHR data from 718 community health centers (CHCs), including 476 CHCs in 13 states that expanded Medicaid (n=576,711 patients), and 242 CHCs in eight states that did not expand Medicaid (n=361,421 patients). The ADVANCE CDRN dataset uniquely positions us to assess cancer screening, prevention, and survivor care among vulnerable populations immediately after the ACA Medicaid expansions, and to follow these patients for several years after this landmark health policy natural experiment.

Potential Impact

This study is significant, as it will assess the natural experiment resulting from some US states implementing ACA Medicaid expansion, while others have not. It addresses scientific knowledge gaps (how Medicaid expansion impacts receipt of cancer prevention and survivor care) and technology gaps (prior lack of novel data sources for studying populations not found reliably in claims or self-reported data). Findings from this study will have national relevance and will contribute to NCI's priorities regarding improving cancer prevention knowledge.



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Organizations Involved

- Fenway
- Health Choice Network
- Oregon Health & Science University