

As a poverty alleviation program, the Philippine government launched the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in 2008, a program which gives cash grants to the ultra-poor populations upon meeting health and education conditionalities. Following the success of such programs in Latin America, the Pantawid has shown early successes in the Philippines with better school participation rates and maternal and child healthcare use. However, recent and comprehensive evidence on its impact on immunization coverage has been limited. With the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, the importance of improving vaccination performance in the Philippines, particularly for the members of Pantawid, cannot be overemphasized.

The goal of this study is to assess the impact of membership to the Pantawid on vaccination coverage for children aged one year old. Using the most recent Demographic and Health Survey in 2017, this study uses propensity score matching to estimate the average treatment effect on the treated (ATT). This measure represents the impact of membership to the Pantawid on vaccination coverage compared to their non-member counterparts. ATT estimates reveal positive significant difference for Pantawid members for BCG, DPT1, OPV1, Hepatitis B1 and OPV2 vaccines ranging from 4.7% points to 5.8% points. No impact was observed on the vaccine coverage for fully-immunized children (FIC). This study also observed positive significant difference among Pantawid children from rural households, lower income quintiles and the poorest region.