Implications of ACA Medicaid Expansion on Access to Substance Use Treatment Facilitie with Specialty Programs for Justice-Involved Clients

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Aims

- Estimate impact of Medicaid expansion on the supply, affordability and quality of substance use treatment facilities offering criminal justice programs

Methods and Data

- Conceptual Framework
- Figure 1. Percent of facilities offering specialty CJ programs and services by state's expansion status, pre- and post-expansion

Results

- Table 1. Marginal Effects of SUD Facilities Offering Specialty Justice Services, 2013-2017

Limitations

- N-SSATS Self-reported survey; potential social desirability and recall bias
- Programs
- Cross sectional limits
- Proxy variables to estimate unmeasured constructs

Conclusions / Implications

- No effect of expansion on facility's decision to offer CJ program and specialty services, but impact varied across SUD rates
- States with lower SUD rates increased in likelihood, while those with higher SUD rates decreased
- CJ clients crowded out of treatment
- Facilities potentially discouraged from offering time and resource intensive CJ programs
- Expansion yet to increase treatment accessibility for CJ clients. If stakeholders wish to secure clients access, more concentrated national efforts are needed
- Districts and states laid foundation, with strategies including strengthening Justice-Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) Treatment Partnerships and increasing treatment reimbursement rates

Future Work

- Research on long-term implications and needs assessment
- Quality-based evaluations
- Proxy variables to estimate unmeasured constructs