



Welcomes you to the Webinar #2021_2
Friday 8, 2021; 11:30 AM– 1:00 PM

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Dr. Dean Spears

Assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin
Visiting economist at the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi,
Founding Executive Director of r.i.c.e.,
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Speaks on:

Excess neonatal mortality among private facility births in rural India: Demographic analysis of a national survey

Authors:

Diane Coffey, Nikhil Srivastav, Aditi Priya, Asmita Verma, Alok Kumar, and Dean Spear

Abstract

Almost one-fourth of neonatal deaths occur in India. Two-thirds of India's neonatal deaths occur in Empowered Action Group (EAG) states, a national designation of eight high-mortality states. Research and policy efforts have focused on promoting institutional rather than at-home deliveries, with limited investigation of differences between public and private facilities. We conduct demographic analysis of NMR among rural births reported in a 2015-16 national survey. We standardize demographic rates by socioeconomic status. In the rural population of EAG states, NMR among private facility births is 52 per 1000 (95% CI: 48-56), compared with 34 per 1000 in public facilities (95% CI: 32-36) and 43 for home births (95% CI: 40-46). After standardizing by socioeconomic status, the NMR gap between private and public facility births increases from 18 to 29. Births in private facilities have higher NMR even stratifying on key predictors of neonatal mortality. Our discussion considers whether quality of care can help explain the differences we observe.

About the speaker

Dr. Dean Spears is an economic demographer and development economist. He is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Texas at Austin, a visiting economist at the Economics and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi, a founding Executive Director of r.i.c.e., and is an affiliate of IZA and of the Climate Futures Initiative at Princeton University. At UT-Austin, he is an affiliate of the Population Research Center, the South Asia Institute, and Innovations for Peace and Development. With Diane Coffey, he is the author of the award-winning book *Where India Goes: Abandoned Toilets, Stunted Development, and the Costs of Caste*.

His research areas include:

The health, growth, and survival of children, especially in India
The environment, air pollution, and climate change
The population dimensions of social well-being

Link to his profile: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/economics/faculty/spearsde>