

# Compared to what? Discerning Healthy Start impact on birth outcomes using propensity score matching methods

## Presenter

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## Presentation Objectives

- Highlight the use of propensity score matching to estimate the effect of participation in MomsFirst, the federally-funded Healthy Start program implemented by the Cleveland Department of Public Health, on reducing birth outcomes associated with infant mortality.
- Demonstrate the promise of integrated data systems to strengthen evaluations of non-experimental intervention designs.

## Highlights

- MomsFirst participation is associated with small, but statistically significant improvements in birth outcomes. Program effects are greater for African American compared to Caucasian participants.
- The level of specificity contained in integrated data systems can be sufficiently granular to create comparable groups using propensity score matching techniques.

## Resources

- To learn more about [MomsFirst](#)
- Full description of [Childhood Integrated Longitudinal Data \(CHILD\) System](#)