

# **The Impact of Safety Net Program on Reduction of Infant Mortality: Evidence from Ethiopia**

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## **Abstract**

This study investigates to the impact of safety net program on reduction of infant mortality in Ethiopia. Although extensive empirical investigations have been conducted on the impact of safety net programs, there has been less consideration of infant mortality. We examine in this study to what extent the safety net program affects Ethiopia's infant mortality rate for the first time. We used the data from the 2016 and 2019 Ethiopian Demographic Health Surveys to study the relationship between the safety net and infant mortality. The Ethiopian Demographic survey does not include the year when the mother or households joined the safety net program. Owing to this, we only use children who were born in 2014 and 2017 from both survey. The sample size of the study is 3,263 children, of which 1,214 children were born in 2014, and 2,049 children were born in 2017.

The dependent variable is infant mortality and the independent variable is a productive safety net program, and in this study, we include control variables such as mother age, children birth order number, mother education and household's residence.

We employ the Ordinary Least Square estimation model to evaluate the effect of the safety net program on reduction of infant mortality. We run infant mortality on a safety net program, the regression results show that statistically insignificant. Moreover we run separately, cash, food and cash or the beneficiary household's earning types to examine the extent of the contribution for reduction infant mortality rate in Ethiopia. However the estimation results remain insignificant. This shown that Ethiopia's productive safety net has not contributed to reducing infant mortality.