Making a Difference

Research Results Generated with CCS’s Dataset
By:
Xia Si and Tammy Leonard
CCS’s Investment in Research

- **2011**—Rev Cole articulates ambitious idea around data collection & CARE partnership begins
- **2012**—Research-worthy data collection at CCS begins
- **2013**—Longitudinal data archive begins
- **2014**—Researchers from across DFW recommend ways to expand data collection
- **2015**—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant: implement the recommended changes & use tablets at CDP sites
- **2017**—Merged data with Parkland EHR Data
- **2018**—Study impact of CDP expansion on health and grant proposals to Russel Sage Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Research is a long game

- The “now”: Research can inform and complement programming
  - Focus groups
  - FAME cooking classes
  - Inform our understanding of visiting patterns
  - Help us understand client behavior
- The "future": Research’s larger impact is in the future
  - Xia’s study use data from 2012 & will contribute to policy discussion over the next several years
- The long game is important—because for many of our clients, the long game is their game
CCS’s Dataset: An Unique Opportunity to Answer Unanswered Questions

- Effective decision making requires solid data driven evidence generated by research.

- Due to several difficulties, it is not so easy to answer questions like:
  - What is policy A’s impact on people?
  - If we do policy B, what will happen?
Let’s use WIC program as an example.

To understand the impact of having, or losing WIC benefits on low income households is not so simple.

- People with WIC and People without WIC may have different income, household composition, and health
- We have things that are impossible to observe, like motivation
- Comparability is a big issue.

CCS’s unique dataset allow us to answer many difficult questions in a very unique and effective way.
An Extra Layer of Social Safety-net

- Unlike most other datasets, CCS’s dataset have detailed information on all household members.

- CCS’s dataset allows us to apply a method called “Regression Discontinuity Design”

- Now we can compare households that are very similar and comparable!
An Extra Layer of Social Safety

Estimated Discontinuity = 0.2232 (p = 0.000)
An Extra Layer of Social Safety-net
An Extra Layer of Social Safety-net

- Losing WIC will cause households in our sample to increase visiting probability CCS by 20 percentage points.

- Households are able to compensate 50% to 80% of the WIC loss by visiting CCS more.

- This suggest:
  - Private assistance like CCS is a very effective extra layer of the social safety-net
  - Losing WIC is a big deal, our results suggest modification to this program
  - CCS’s dataset provides opportunity to understand policy impact of more policies
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization

- CCS has been enrolling CDP sites to its distribution network

- Many interesting questions:
  - What's the impact of enrolling new CDP sites on expanding the population we serve?
  - What's the impact on existing clients?

- The address information we collect at CCS allows us to understand those impact, and more!
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization
Network Expansion: More Participants, Higher Utilization

- When a new CDP site is opened, eligible households around it become more than 4 times more likely to enroll in CCS’s assistance program.
  - But the increase in enrolling probability becomes smaller if households are far away from this CDP
  - It is highly beneficial to have denser distribution sites

- Existing CCS clients also significantly increase their visiting probability!
What’s next for research at CCS?

- Leeds University in the UK has requested access to CCS data to help us understand client food choices
  - What are clients preferences for shelf-stable vs fresh food? And do they reach “saturation” for some products sooner than others?
- Does the CDP network provide indirect benefits the lead to improved health and economic outcomes?
- Understand how the CDP network can be leverage to help build community resiliency in the face of community threats such as increased immigration enforcement actions
- Can we use behavioral economics to help our SNAP clients make better budgeting decisions while combining SNAP and CCS assistance?
Thank you!

Effective community research requires a team commitment.

We’re proud to be part of Crossroad’s team.