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Subject: Re: Delay In Seeking the First Postnatal Care is Protective ?

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Mon, 26 Oct 2020 13:47:02 GMT

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Following is a response from DHS Research & Data Analysis Director, Tom Pullum:

At DHS we have often found similar counter-intuitive relationships. Think of the following research hypothesis: People who go to a doctor often are healthier than people who do NOT go to a doctor often. I would say that this hypothesis may be true if you are talking about preventive care, but it is probably NOT true for other kinds of doctor visits.

It can happen that children and women who get more antenatal care or more (and faster) postnatal care are the ones with problematic pregnancies. If there are no red flags, so to speak, there is less motivation to get more complete care. This may be especially likely in settings where the optimal level of care is less common. I believe that's what you are seeing here. It definitely complicates a causal interpretation.

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