Faculti Summary

https://faculti.net/conditional-cash-transfers-and-womens-reproductive-choices-summary/

The study investigates the impact of conditional cash transfers, specifically the Juntos program in Peru, on mothers' fertility in developing countries. The program provides monthly financial assistance to low-income households, contingent upon meeting certain educational and health conditions for their children. The findings reveal that the program significantly reduces fertility rates, particularly unplanned pregnancies, demonstrating a four percentage point decrease in total fertility, equating to about 0.14 fewer births per woman. This video reduction is linked to improved household welfare and maternal and child health. The cash transfers enhance access to modern contraception and empower women in decision-making, with effects lasting up to six years. Although traditional measures of empowerment may not show strong outcomes, reduced fertility could signify an indirect empowerment through greater access to birth control. The study emphasizes the need for better data and measures for development agencies.