**Appendix**

The empirical model is:



Where i,t is the incidence rate at the i-th hospital at time t; P is a dummy variable where 1 represents hospital i being in the intervention group and 0 otherwise, and T is a time dummy variable where 1 represents a follow-up measurement and 0 represents a baseline measurement. The incidence rate is defined is in turned defined as :



Where **it is the number of events occurred in the i-th hospital at time t, and **it is the number of live births occurred in hospital i up to time t. **1, the coefficient of the interaction term, is the estimate of the impact of the intervention adjusted for pre-existing baseline differences in the outcome. The reported IRRDID (exp{**1 }) is literally the ratio of the IRR at follow-up to the IRR at baseline and at the same time it is the ratio of IRR of time (change) in the treated to the IRR of time in the controls.