

SICHS Methodology

1 Survey Data

We collect data from the South India Community Health Study (SICHS), which covers a rural population of 1.1 million individuals residing in Vellore district in Tamil Nadu. The study area is representative of rural Tamil Nadu and rural South India with respect to socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The analysis makes use of two components of the SICHS: a census of all 298,000 households drawn from 57 castes residing in the study area, completed in 2014 which include nearly 80,000 children aged 0-6; and a detailed survey of 5,000 representative households, completed in 2016. The survey collected information on the marriage of the primary respondent (the household head) and the marriages of his children (in the preceding five years).

The SICHS was designed to examine a variety of socioeconomic phenomena and health problems, including the treatment of tuberculosis. The study area thus comprises three Tuberculosis Units (TU's) within Vellore district that were purposefully selected to be representative of rural South India.

The sampling frame for the household survey included all ever-married men aged 25-60 in the SICHS census plus (a small number of) divorced or widowed women with “missing” husbands who would have been aged 25-60, based on the average age-gap between husbands and wives. The sample was subsequently drawn to be representative of each caste in the study area, excluding castes with less than 100 households in the census.