

Does the Healthy Baby Prenatal Benefit Improve Metis Birth and Early Childhood Outcomes?

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Objective

To determine whether the Healthy Baby Prenatal Benefit program improved birth and early childhood outcomes for Metis children.



Background

The Healthy Baby Prenatal Benefit was introduced by the Manitoban Government in 2001 to promote healthy pregnancies and births.^[1]

Beginning in the 2nd trimester of pregnancy, HBPB provides a monthly income support benefit of up to \$81.41.^[1]

The HBPB has been shown to be associated with positive outcomes among the general population in Manitoba.^[1] Whether these positive outcomes are seen specifically among Metis women who received the HBPB remains uncertain.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) partnered with Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) researchers to conduct this study.

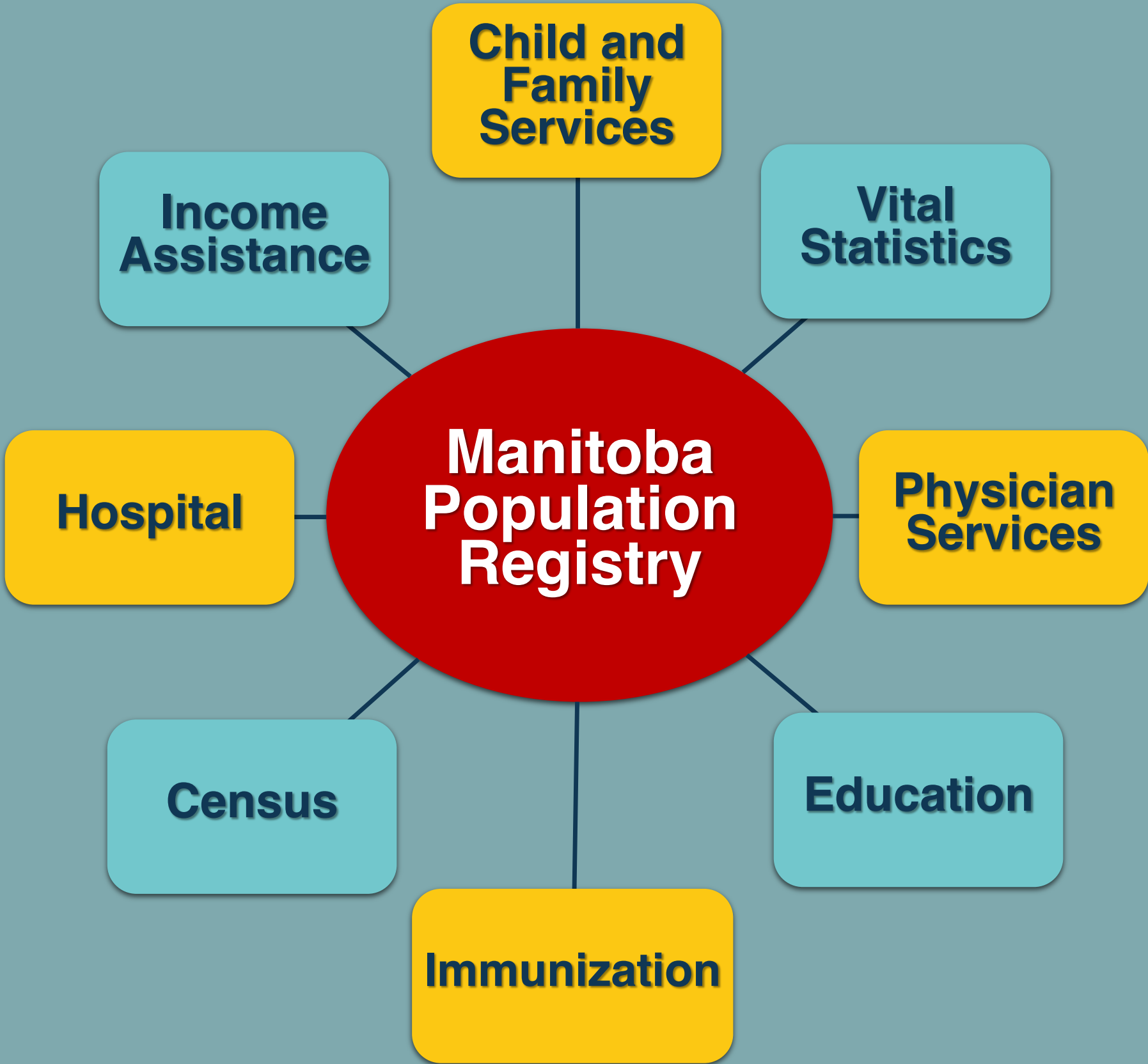
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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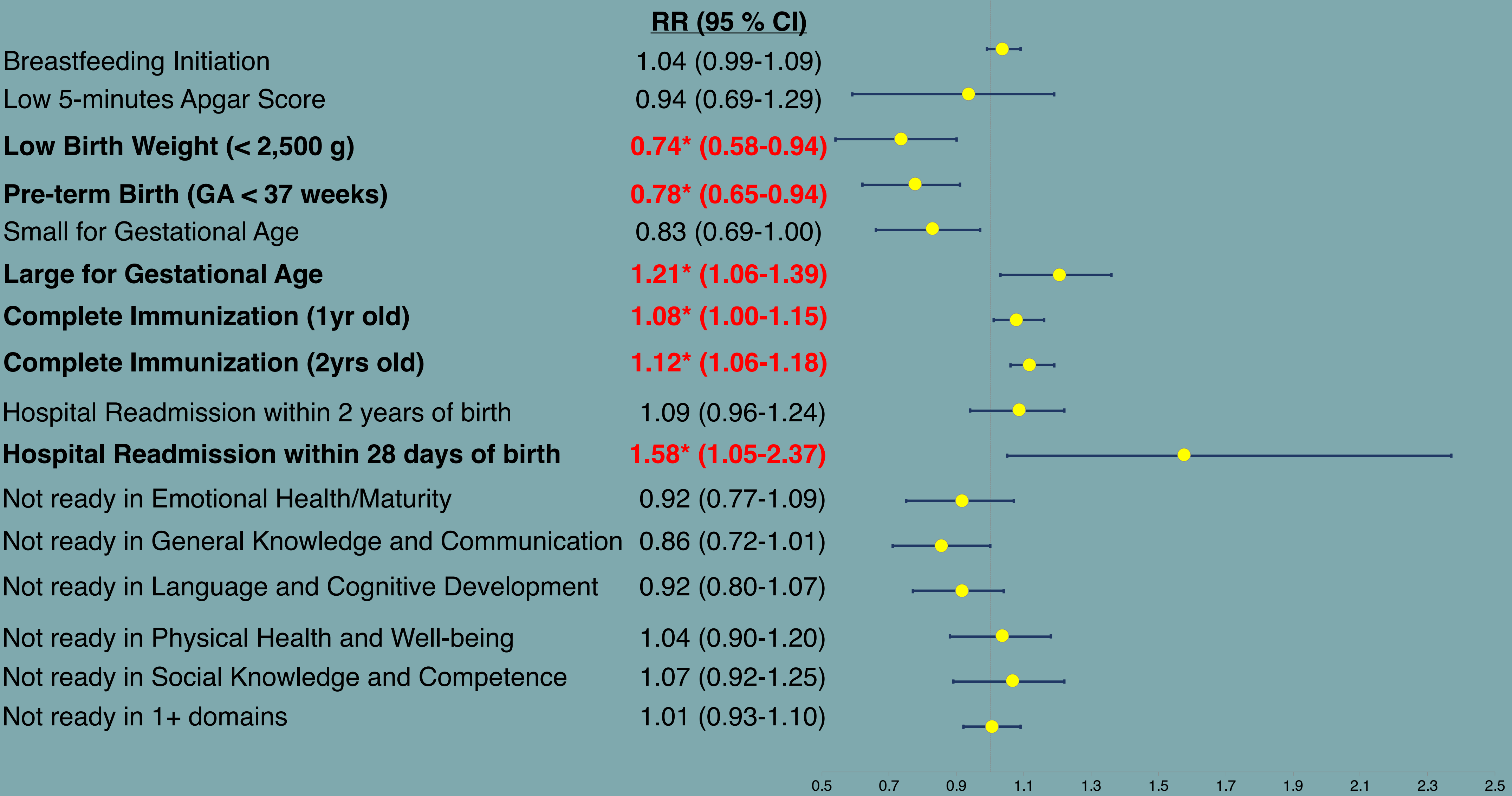
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Method

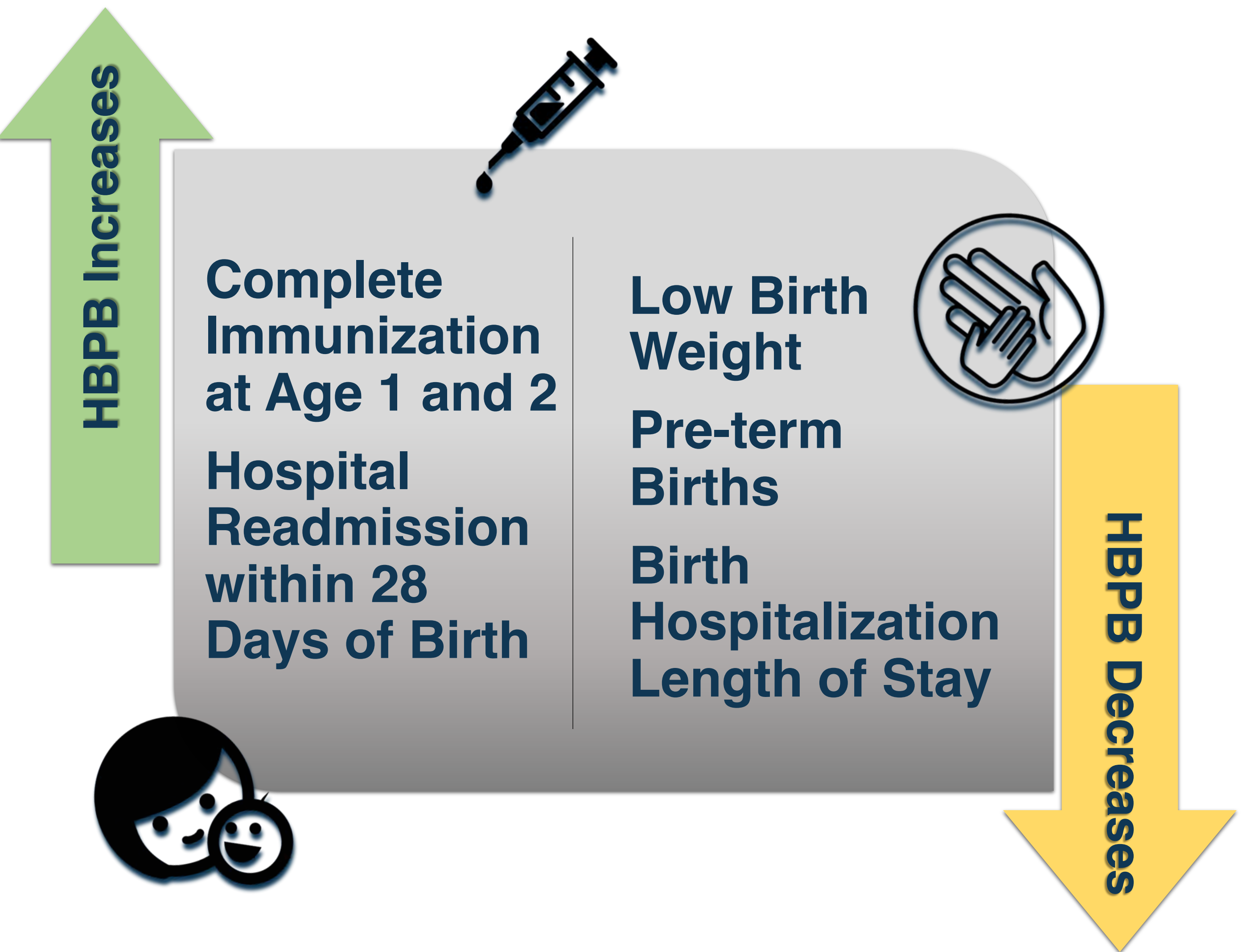
- Nine years (2003-2011) of HBPB Program data was linked to de-identified administrative data held at MCHP for 4,891 Metis women receiving Income Assistance during pregnancy.
- Propensity score weighting for each mom-baby dyad was used to adjust for differences between those who received the program ($n = 3,702$) and those who did not receive it ($n = 1,189$).
- Weights (IPTW) from these scores were then used to balance differences between the groups in analyses.



Results



Conclusion



A modest income supplement received by low-income Metis women during pregnancy was associated with improved birth outcomes and increased immunization rates for their children; however, there was also an association with increased neonatal readmissions, which warrants further exploration. The lack of significant associations between the prenatal income supplement and child development measures at school entry suggests more sustained support may be necessary to improve longer-term outcomes.

[1]Brownell MD, Chartier MJ, Nickel NC, et al. Unconditional prenatal income supplement and birth outcomes. *Pediatrics*. 2016;137(6):e20152992

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