

## Reduction in hospital mortality over time in a hospital without a pediatric medical emergency team: limitations of before-and-after study designs.

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Joffe AR, Anton NR, Burkholder SC. Reduction in hospital mortality over time in a hospital without a pediatric medical emergency team: limitations of before-and-after study designs. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2011;165(5):419-23. doi:10.1001/archpediatrics.2011.47.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/reduction-hospital-mortality-over-time-hospital-without-pediatric-medical-emergency-team>

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[Rapid response systems](#) (RRS) have been widely adopted despite mixed results about their impact in [both](#) pediatric and adult settings. This study found a reduction in hospital mortality *without* a pediatric medical emergency team (PMET). The authors use their findings to illustrate the limitations of before-and-after study designs that previously demonstrated benefits of RRS. These reported [benefits](#) in pediatric settings may have resulted from any number of cointerventions rather than adoption of a PMET itself. An accompanying editorial [see link below] further advocates for investments in well-performed [studies](#) that can be cost-effective, and [appropriately](#) align limited resources to the most proven interventions.