

Review of: "How Social Infrastructure Saves Lives: A Quantitative Analysis of Japan's 3/11 Disasters"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In general, objectives and rationale are clearly stated in the article. This article tries to answer the following question: how higher levels of social infrastructure – controlling for other important factors – correlated with lower mortality rates among the most vulnerable population, that is, the elderly, during the 3/11 triple disasters. The article explains well how there is a gap in the literature in this field and that it wants to address this gap.

Some parts need references:

Table 1 needs references.

Please provide reference for the section of Determinants of Mortality on paragraph two, particularly on hazard and economic conditions to justify the claims of author!

In terms of the method/theory in this article, would you please justify why have you applied OLS, NNM and ATE and whether this method allows for its replicability and/ or reproducibility?

In terms of control factors, why do you only focus on these control factors, and not for example the other social factors such as the household characteristics, abilities, expectation, and cultural factors?

It does make more sense if you justify the study method by the previous studies showing how observational data can be more beneficial by the ATE method. Arguably, the methodology section is somehow light in terms of content.

Making survey with communities should be conducted to make sure to what extent your assumption is true.

I feel that the methods and theory in the study can also be strengthened. Most importantly there is a need in the beginning of the article for a clear and strong argumentation for using the theory of social capital or other relevant social theories and making it clearly central in the analysis.

In terms of limitations of the study, there is no clearly stated limitations of the study in terms of different disasters as the nature of crime is totally different with natural hazards!