

Review of: "Evolution of Perceived Vulnerability to Infection in Japan During the COVID-19 Pandemic"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In this study, the author aimed to clarify the change in citizens' perception of infection risks through the COVID-19 pandemic state. It is a theme of interest for many researchers relevant to this academic region.

I wonder when the author started to gather the data for this study presented in this manuscript. In the methods section, the author wrote that the Ethics Committee approved the implementation of the study, but when? The presented data include that gathered in 2018, obviously pre-pandemic. Did the research project start before 2018? Otherwise, if the author started the project after the pandemic occurred, how did the author gather the data from the past? Utilizing data gathered through another study requires informed consent from the providers of the data as well as an appropriate ethics check by the committee. The author should explain the process of integrating the past data into the present study.