

An attempt to assess the secondary health impacts of countermeasures against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): An analysis of trends in excess deaths among the elderly in Japan

Primary Reseaecher: Mihoko Takahashi
Lecturer, Department of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
Saitama Medical University

Co-researcher: Midori Kamei
Professor, Department of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
Saitama Medical University

The aim of this study was to investigate and detect the possible effect of the COVID-19 measures. We analyzed the trends of the monthly death rates for 15 causes of death. When the measures were strengthened, anomalous increases of the death rate (beyond the reference range) were detected for Senility, Aspiration pneumonia, etc., and anomalous decreases of the death rate (below the reference range) were detected for Pneumonia and Traffic accidents. Pneumonia death rates increased after COVID-19 vaccination became widespread. The numbers of excess deaths in the months when the monthly death rates were beyond the reference ranges were 4,521 (min: 2,322 - max: 6,644) for senility, 4,061 (1,594 - 6,438) for heart diseases, and 1,642 (644 – 2,599) for Aspiration Pneumonia. These results suggest that the measures affected the death rates for various causes among elderly people.