

In Utero Exposure to Radiation Fear and Birth Outcomes: Evidence from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident

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| 参加料 | 無 料 | 言 語 | 発表・資料ともに英語

| 概 要 |

We study the effects of exposure to radiation fear in utero on health at birth and five years later, using universal birth records linked to censuses in Japan. We are the first to assess maternal stress due to fear of an intangible and uncertain risk—radiation exposure. We leverage the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident in 2011 and use a quasi-experimental setting by focusing on children whose expected birthdates were within a 280-day window to the accident. We find that radiation fear causes a 30-gram decrease in birth weight, with significant increases in the risks of low birth weight and preterm delivery. The negative impact is concentrated at the lower end of birth weight distribution, indicating that high-risk newborns are most affected. The impact endures for a brief period after birth, with an increase in physical symptoms at age two and a negligible effect at age five. (つづきは裏面へ)



| 開催形式 |

オンライン(ZOOM)で開催いたします。

※インターネット環境とPCやスマートフォン、タブレットが必要です。



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開催前日までにこちらよりご参加用URLをメールにてお送りします。

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(概要のつづき)

The exposure to radiation fear in the first-trimester has the largest impact since the fear lingered after the accident, resulting in a longer cumulative exposure on the fetuses. The impact is more pronounced if expectant mothers are less educated or have toddlers, and if expectant fathers work in agriculture, indicating that intelligence collection is important for stress relief and food contamination is the main source of radiation fear. The findings have immediate implications for offspring health loss due to maternal stress from intangible risks like viruses.
