

Vaccination under the Pandemic and Political Support*

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on political support. We exploit the age-based COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in Japan where those aged 65 years and older are strictly prioritized. A regression discontinuity design based on a large-scale online survey reveals that COVID-19 vaccination increases favorable opinions of the vaccination progress in municipalities and infection control measures of municipal governments whereas there is no significant effect on support for the central government. We also find that the effect is more pronounced among people with chronic diseases and those with low socioeconomic status. These results suggest that both reciprocal motives and political information play an important role in the evaluation of public policies.

Keywords: COVID-19; Vaccine; Political Support; Regression Discontinuity Design; Reciprocity; Socioeconomic Status

JEL classification : D72, H51, I18

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