

PRELIMINARY DRAFT-NOT FOR QUOTATION  
Informal Care and Labor Force Participation, Subjective Health and Life  
Satisfaction of Middle-Aged Family Members:  
Evidence from Japanese Panel Survey\*

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April, 2013

Abstract

In Japan, giving care to frail elderly people is still a primary role of family members. Whether such a role prevents them from working outside the home is a big concern. Based on a longitudinal data on Japanese middle-aged men and women, this study investigates whether they become less likely to have a job and whether they decrease a sense of well-being when they have a family member who needs care. We find a consistent negative impact of having a family member who needs care on labor force participation for both men and women, but no impact on their subjective health and life satisfaction. Even after the introduction of Long-Term Care Insurance, the adverse impact on labor force participation is not mitigated.

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\* We would like to thank Naoki Mitani, Shinpei Sano, Takashi Unayama, Kazufumi Yugami, and the participants of seminar at Kobe University. We are also grateful to the Social Science Japan Data Archive (Center for Social Research and Data Archives, Institute of Social Science, The University of Tokyo) for permitting us to use "Panel Survey on Middle-Aged Persons, NLI Research Institute."

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