

Regional Deaths Projections Consistent with the “2023 Regional Population Projections”

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Using the survival rate assumptions employed in *Regional Population Projections for Japan: 2023 Projection* (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 2024), this study projects the number of deaths for the periods from 2020–2025 through 2045–2050 at both the prefectural and municipal levels, in a manner fully consistent with the 2023 regional population projection. In addition, projections of deaths consistent with the reference (closed-population) variant of the regional population projection are produced, showing that the effects of future population migration on the number of deaths are within ± 2 –3 percent for approximately half of all municipalities.

Furthermore, to assess projection errors in the projected numbers of deaths derived from *Regional Population Projections for Japan: 2018 Projection* (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, 2018), the projected deaths are compared with observed deaths for the five-year period following the 2018 projection. The results indicate that once total population size exceeds 10,000, projection errors greater than 10 percent become uncommon, and that for 90 percent of municipalities with populations of 100,000 or more, error rates fall within a range of -5 to $+9$ percent. At the same time, the findings underscore the importance of interpreting projected deaths with an explicit allowance for uncertainty.

Keywords: Regional population projections; population aging; population decline; future number of deaths; regional differences in mortality