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## Influence of Natural Disasters on Social Engagement and Post-disaster Well-being: The Case of the Great East Japan Earthquake

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### Highlights

- Examine the influence of a natural disaster on people's social engagement
- Use the Great East Japan Earthquake, March 2011, as a case study
- Scrutinize if the influence of the disaster on social engagement differs by damages
- Perform a monetary evaluation of social engagements to explore impact on well-being
- Findings have implications for community-based strategies and policies

### **ABSTRACT**

In addition to multi-faceted damages and losses, natural disasters can alter the conditions of social capital resources by affecting people's attitudes and perceptions. We challenged empirical investigations to explore this issue by focusing on social engagement in the post-disaster period of the Great East Japan Earthquake, March 2011. Two main research topics are addressed: the influence of natural disasters on social engagement and that of social engagement on post-disaster subjective well-being. Crucial findings of our analysis include that daily interactions with neighbors, friends,

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