

The Role of International Migration, Domestic Migration, and Short-term Travel in the Timing of COVID-19's Arrival: Evidence from County-level Data in the United States

COVID-19初感染者発見のタイミングにおける移民、転入者、観光客の役割：
アメリカのカウンティ・レベル・データからのエビデンス

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The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic was a landmark for global human mobility, with dramatically reduced cross-border movements of all kinds. The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated border closures and travel restrictions damaged international tourism demand and severely curtailed global labor migration. By using the Cox proportional hazard regression model, this paper examines the association between international migration, domestic migration, short-term travel, and the timing of COVID-19's arrival across 3,142 counties in 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The main variables of interest are the volume of international migration, domestic migration, and tourism-related business sales with the outcome of the number of days from the first arrival of COVID-19 in the United States on January 21 until the day when COVID-19 arrived in each county. The results of this paper show that counties with more international migrants, either measured by flow or stock, are more likely to experience earlier arrival of the COVID-19 infection, even after controlling for domestic migration, tourism-related business sales, and other socio-economic variables. However, the results of this paper also show that there is no effect of travel restrictions blocking entry to any residents from certain high-risk nations. Although earlier Presidential proclamations had already blocked entry of non-U.S. citizens from China, Iran, Schengen countries in Europe, the United Kingdom, and Ireland, no evidence has been found to suggest that these travel restrictions delayed the arrival of COVID-19 in counties with a higher proportion of people born in these countries.