

台湾の出生前性別選択禁止政策が出生時性比に与えた影響

——人口規模行政データを用いた自然実験による検証——

Taiwan's Prenatal Sex-Selection Ban and Sex Ratios at Birth:

Evidence from a Population-Based Natural Experiment

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Abstract: Prenatal sex selection has skewed sex ratios at birth (SRB) across Asia since the 1980s, yet causal evidence on the effectiveness of legal prohibitions remains limited. Using linked nationwide administrative registries from Taiwan (810,949 second births, 2005–2021), we evaluate the June 2010 prenatal sex-selection ban as a population-based natural experiment. Sex selection at first birth was minimal, so firstborn sex provides quasi-random variation, while son preference generates sharply different incentives for sex selection at the second birth. In a difference-in-differences comparison of families with a firstborn daughter versus a firstborn son, the ban reduced the excess probability of a male second birth by 1.5 percentage points (83%; $p < 0.001$), with effects concentrated among non-assisted reproductive technology (non-ART) births. ART accounted for 1% of second births and showed a persistently male-biased sex ratio with no statistically detectable post-ban change. The treatment–control gap in ART utilisation increased by 0.2 percentage points after the ban ($p < 0.001$). These findings show that a nationwide prohibition—when coupled with routine provider-level SRB surveillance, enforcement, and public advocacy—can rapidly curtail prenatal sex selection, while underscoring the value of tracking technological routes that are less readily governed as reproductive care evolves.