

Investigating Victims Living in and outside Their Hometown of Mashiki After the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake

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Abstract

It is important to support the reconstruction of housing for households that have moved out of their hometown after a large-scale disaster. Due to the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, many households lost their home and they are forced to live in temporary housing. Mashiki is one of the heaviest damaged town by the earthquake, and many households have moved out of Mashiki. They may face the difficulties that is different from household living in Mashiki, but the situations have not been fully investigated. Hence, the purpose of this study was to compare the households living in and outside their hometown of Mashiki after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake and describe their demographic characteristics, concerns, and needs. We analyze the data of a questionnaire survey conducted by Mashiki local government in July 2017 (N=5,210).

The results indicate that elderly households tend to live in Mashiki and in constructed temporary housing, while working-generation households tends to live in post-disaster publicly funded rental housing outside Mashiki. The reason can be explained as follows. The working-generation started seeking the residence swiftly after the disaster and they found the rental housing by themselves before temporary housing were constructed. Meanwhile, elderly households could not obtain the information on the post-disaster publicly funded rental housing and they had waited the construction of temporary housing at evacuation centers. Also, the elderly household prefer to live in their hometown, Mashiki.

In addition, we found that single households living within Mashiki tend to live in constructed temporary housing regardless of their age, but single households living outside Mashiki have different trends based on their age; elderly, single households live with relatives or acquaintances and single households that are working-generation live in post-disaster publicly funded rental housing.

Finally, we conducted a correspondence analysis using open-ended questions. It found that households living within their hometown request the prompt restoration of infrastructure regardless of their income, and those living outside their hometown are seriously considering future housing options as their income increases. These findings can be valuable for considering the supporting system for the victims by future disasters.