

The Curse of Bad Geography: Stagnant Water, Diseases, and Children's Human Capital (Berggreen & Mattisson 2023)

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Summary

- Health and cognitive effects of stagnant water in Tanzania
 - Higher diarrhea rates, lower test scores
 - Effects mitigated by access to safe water and sanitation
- Difference-in-differences approach
 - Hydrological model of stagnant water potential

Identification

- Geographic resolution
 - Hydrological model very fine-grained, but outcomes not
 - 50 km² much coarser than ward (about 250 observations)
- Timing
 - Differences in timing of water vs. survey

Interpretation

- Treatment
 - Does stagnant water only affect waterborne disease?
- Back-of-the-envelope
 - Assumes that effects scale linearly