Abstract

This study analyzes the impact of evacuation status on labor market outcomes such as employment and earnings following the Great East Japan Earthquake by using annual microdata from the 2012 Employment Status Survey in Japan. This is the first research to focus on the effect of evacuation status onlabor market performance for the Great East Japan Earthquake. The evacuation status categories are (1) evacuated and still away from home, (2) evacuated and moved to another place, (3) evacuated and already returned home, and (4) did not evacuate. We applied a probit model to estimate unemployment and an interval regression to estimate earnings. To estimate unemployment, we also used propensity score matching to control for selection into evacuation status on observable characteristics. After controlling for selection into evacuation categories on observable characteristics, our findings show that those still away from home have the worst labor market performance in terms of employment. Although we could not control for selection into evacuation categories in the interval regressionand the results are not statistically significant, current results also show those who are still away from home seem to havethe lowest earnings. Alsothose who evacuated from Fukushima and still away from home have the lowest earnings. The estimates suggest that we need a specific employment support for those who evacuated especially for those who are still away from home.