

in the U.S. and U.K., the paper's results for Japanese households with children appears to be a novel one.

The relative advantage of consumption over income was further demonstrated by two tests that compared consumption and income in their ability to identify households with lower material well-being (such as less likely ownership of land, housing, and major consumer durables, the small total floor space of housing, and the lower chance to have a child who is studying in a university). In total, the paper examined 27 alternative indicators of well-being, and consumption was always superior to income in identifying disadvantaged households with children, with most results statistically significant. While the conceptual advantage of consumption over income for identifying poverty is widely known (as an implication of permanent-income hypothesis), practical advantages of using consumption to identify poverty are relatively less acknowledged. This paper fills in the gap, and provide new evidence for two practical advantages of consumption to measure child poverty in Japan: because consumption has lower measurement error (especially compared with the severe under-reporting of income among the poorest households), and because low consumption showed better association than income with alternative indicators of worse living conditions.

If consumption is in fact a better measure of worse material conditions, but incomes are used instead to identify child poverty, this creates two problems. The first problem is *false positives*, when some children are classified as "poor", even though they are not really the most disadvantaged ones. The second problem is *false negatives*, when by using income, we fail to identify children who really the most disadvantaged.

How large is the number of false positives and false negatives among Japanese children? This can be calculated from Figure 2, which shows how poor children were classified with NSFIE data for 2004. False positives refer to children who were income-poor, but not consumption-poor, accounting for 6.3% of children. Conversely, false negatives were consumption-poor, but not income-poor, accounting for 3.5% children. Only for 4.1% the classification was consistent for both income and consumption. The large number of false positives and false-negatives in poverty classification has an important policy implication, when public funds are allocated to children are not really the most disadvantaged, and

when the society fails to support children who are truly in need. Evidently, the use of income may create a serious classification error of child poverty in Japan.

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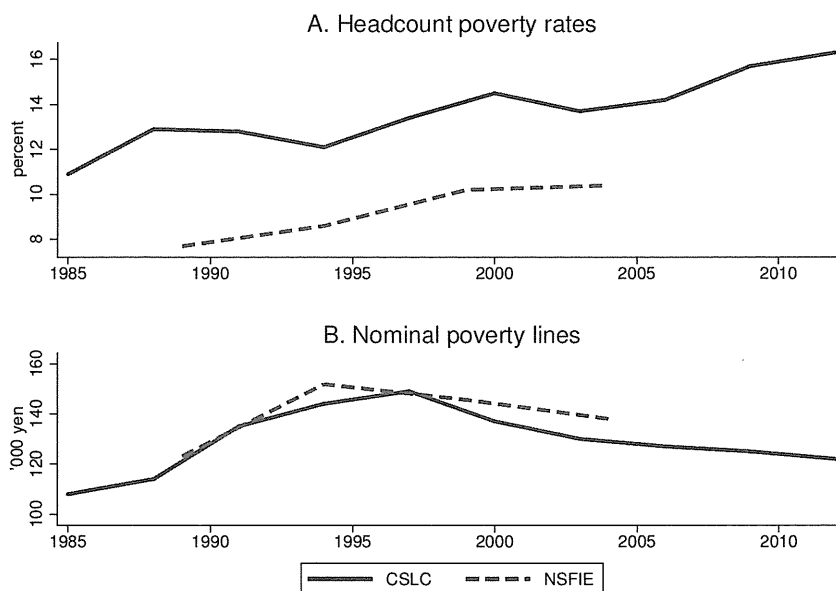
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Table 1. Sample size

(A) Changes in the sample size with data cleaning:	
1. Original sample size	241,797
2. Less: households, marked for unreliable income information	234,095
3. Less: households with negative income or consumption	234,088
4. Less: households with zero income or consumption	234,067
5. Less: house.hold with married household head, younger than 20 years old = Final sample size	234,038
(B) Final sample size by survey year:	
1989	58,413
1994	59,550
1999	58,881
2004	57,194
<i>Out of which:</i> Households with negative disposable income	77

Figure 1. Comparison of child poverty rates in Japan.



Note: the figure compares the headcount poverty rates for children and the nominal poverty lines from two household surveys: the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (CSLC) and the National Survey of Family Income and Expenditures (NSFIE). The poverty line is one-half of median household income per equivalent adult. The number of equivalent adults equals to the square root of the total number of household members. Units of measurement are the share of the total number of children in percent (Panel A) and thousand yen (Panel B).

Table 2. Child poverty rate with different measures of household resources

	1989	1994	1999	2004
(A) Child poverty rate for all families				
Disposable income	7.7	8.6	10.2	10.4
Consumption spending	4.5	5.1	5.7	5.2
Non-durable consumption	5.2	6.6	7.9	7.6
Disposable income with alternative imputation	7.7	8.6	10.2	10.5
(B) Child poverty rate for major family types				
	Disposable income			
Both parents	7.6	8.4	9.7	9.2
Single mother	47.4	33.9	44.7	45.0
Single father	26.5	11.7	16.7	24.3
Three-generation and n.e.s.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.0
	Consumption spending			
Both parents	3.8	4.8	5.0	4.2
Single mother	20.8	16.5	23.8	21.3
Single father	20.3	10.5	4.1	9.1
Three-generation and n.e.s.	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.4
	Non-durable consumption			
Both parents	5.1	7.1	8.1	7.4
Single mother	29.8	23.2	29.9	27.9
Single father	20.3	9.8	9.1	17.9
Three-generation and n.e.s.	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5
	Disposable income with alternative imputation			
Both parents	7.6	8.4	10.1	9.3
Single mother	47.4	33.9	46.3	46.3
Single father	26.5	11.7	16.7	20.9
Three-generation and n.e.s.	5.8	5.9	4.9	4.6

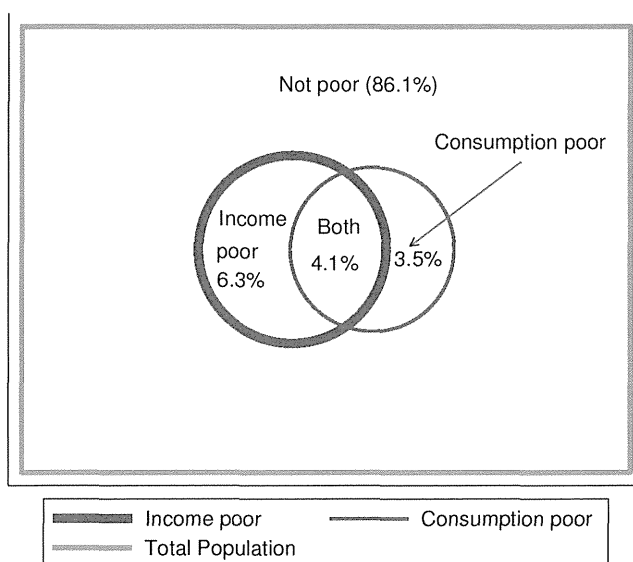
Note: disposable income is defined as total income from all sources (salaries, public and private pension benefits, interest and dividends, etc.) and the imputed rent for owner-occupied housing, less taxes and social security contributions. Consumption spending includes total living expenditures and the imputed rent for owner-occupied housing. Non-durable consumption is based Lise et al. (forthcoming), and equals total consumption spending, less transfers to other households and spending on housing rent and expenditures on durables. Income, expenditures and non-durable consumption are normalized using the square root of total number of household members. Children are defined as unmarried members of household who are younger than 18 years old. The unit of measurement is the percentage of the total number of children (Panel A), and the percentage of the total number of children in a specific family type.

Table 3. Poverty gap for children.

	1989	1994	1999	2004
All families				
Disposable income	1.6	1.9	2.4	2.6
Consumption spending	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Non-durable consumption	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.5
Disposable income (alternative imputation)	1.6	1.9	2.4	2.6
By family type				
Disposable income				
Both parents	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.0
Single mother	15.5	11.4	17.3	17.4
Single father	7.0	2.1	4.8	6.4
Three-generation and n.e.s.	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.9
Consumption spending				
Both parents	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Single mother	4.1	3.6	4.7	5.2
Single father	3.9	1.1	0.5	2.5
Three-generation and n.e.s.	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
Non-durable consumption				
Both parents	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.4
Single mother	6.3	5.8	7.4	8.2
Single father	5.7	1.4	1.3	3.8
Three-generation and n.e.s.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Disposable income (alternative imputation)				
Both parents	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.0
Single mother	15.5	11.4	18.0	18.0
Single father	7.0	2.1	5.0	6.6
Three-generation and n.e.s.	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.8

Note: Poverty gap is the average shortfall from the poverty line, expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. Variable definitions are the same as in Table 2.

Figure 2. Composition of children, defined as income-poor and consumption-poor in 2004.



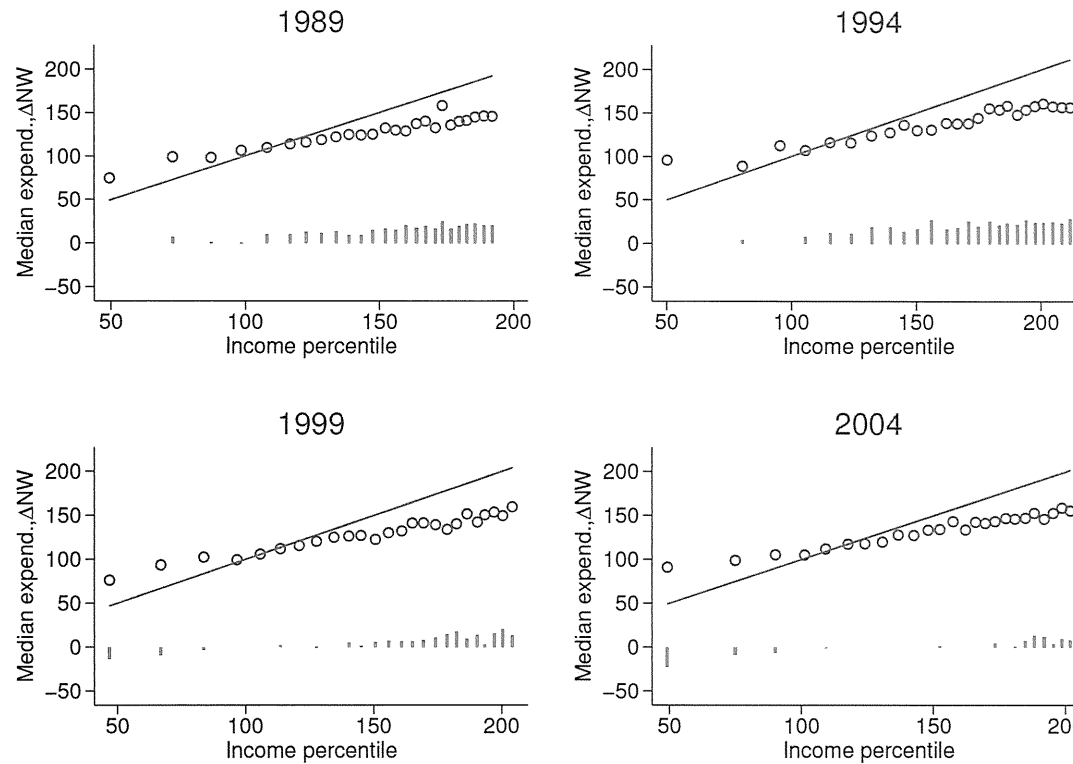
Note: The figure shows the degree of overlap between children, identified as income-poor and consumption-poor in 2004. Income and consumption are disposable income and non-durable consumption, respectively.

Table 4. Comparison of total consumption expenditures in Japan's System of National Accounts (SNA) and National Survey of Family Income and Expenditures (NSFIE).

Panel A: Comparison with national accounts in 2004			
	NSFIE/SNA ratio	Expenditure weights for:	
		SNA	Poorest 10 percentile
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1.161	0.139	0.234
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.539	0.027	0.017
Clothing and footwear	1.124	0.034	0.036
Housing, electricity, gas and water	0.954	0.254	0.316
Furniture and household utensils	0.772	0.039	0.036
Medical care	0.842	0.043	0.052
Transportation	0.777	0.106	0.069
Communication	1.038	0.029	0.028
Entertainment and cultural services	0.932	0.102	0.111
Education	1.203	0.023	0.004
Restaurants and accommodation	0.673	0.066	0.039
Other	0.528	0.137	0.059
<i>Total consumer expenditures:</i>			
<i>SNA weights</i>	0.876		
<i>Poorest 10% households</i>	0.942		
Panel B: Comparison with national accounts in 2009			
	NSFIE/SNA ratio	Expenditure weights for:	
		SNA	Poorest 10 percentile
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1.271	0.139	0.234
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.646	0.027	0.019
Clothing and footwear	1.064	0.034	0.030
Housing, electricity, gas and water	1.131	0.254	0.338
Furniture and household utensils	0.765	0.039	0.038
Medical care	0.860	0.043	0.052
Transportation	0.735	0.106	0.054
Communication	1.089	0.029	0.031
Entertainment and cultural services	1.014	0.102	0.102
Education	1.064	0.023	0.007
Restaurants and accommodation	0.744	0.066	0.034
Other	0.440	0.137	0.061
<i>Total consumer expenditures:</i>			
<i>SNA weights</i>	0.933		
<i>Poorest 10% households</i>	1.034		

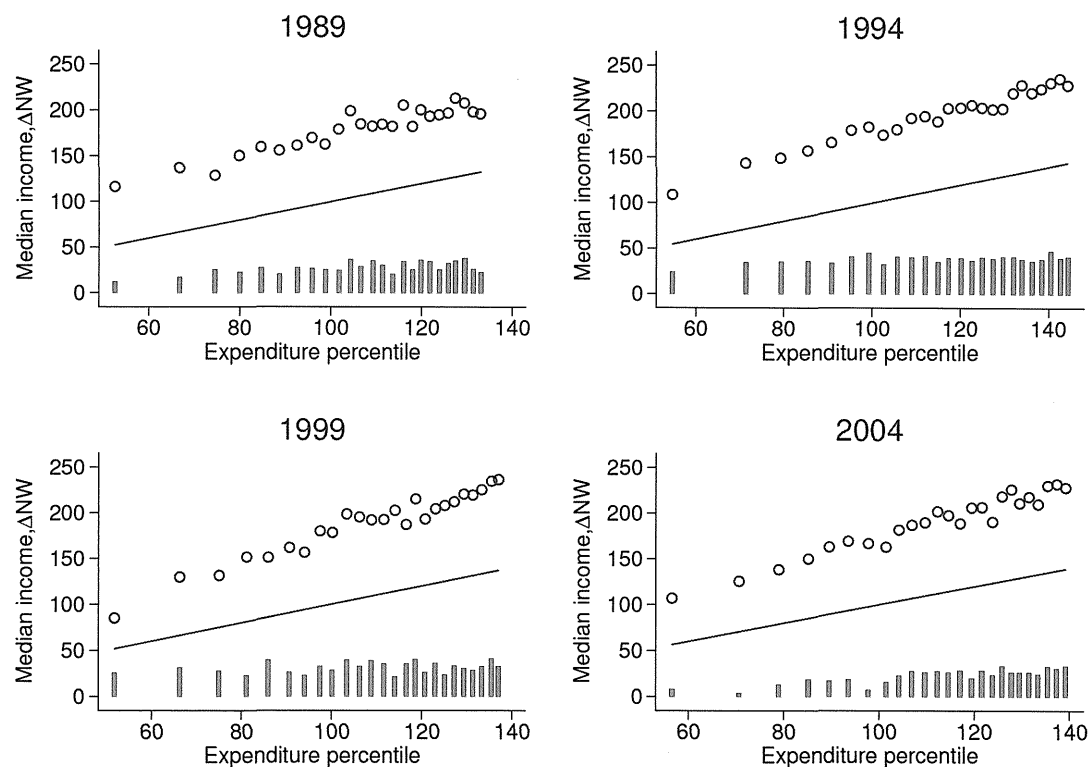
Source: Panel A: Sakai (2010); Panel B: Maeda and Umeda (2013).

Figure 3. Median total expenditures and changes in net worth of households by income percentile.



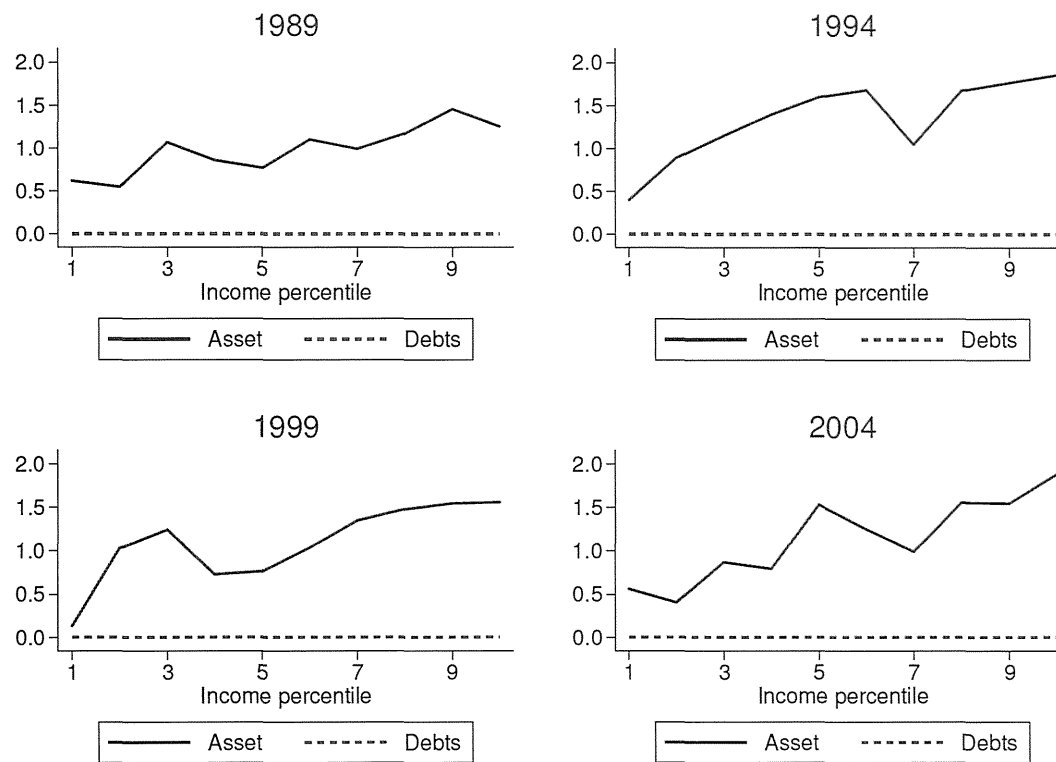
Note: the figure shows median total expenditures and changes in net worth for the bottom 25 percentiles of disposable income. Hollow circles show median expenditures for specific percentiles of disposable income, which range from 1 to 25. The straight line indicates when total expenditures (on axis Y) and disposable income (on axis X) are equal. Bar graph shows median change in net worth for a specific income percentile. By accounting identity, change in net worth should be equal to the difference between disposable income and total consumption expenditures (i.e., the difference between the straight line and hollow circle for a specific income percentile). All variables are divided by the number of equivalent adults, and are measured in 2010 prices. The unit of measurement is 1000 yen.

Figure 4. Median disposable incomes and changes in net worth of households by expenditure percentile.



Note: the figure shows median total income and changes in net worth for the bottom 25 percentiles of total consumer expenditures. Hollow circles show median incomes for specific percentiles of expenditures, which range from 1 to 25. The straight line indicates when disposable income (on axis Y) and expenditures (on axis X) are equal. Bar graph shows median change in net worth for a specific income percentile. By accounting identity, change in net worth should be equal to the difference between disposable income and total consumption expenditures (*i.e.*, the difference between hollow circle and the straight line for a specific income percentile). All variables are divided by the number of equivalent adults, and are measured in 2010 prices. The unit of measurement is 1000 yen.

Figure 5. Median assets and debt for households at the bottom 10 percentiles of disposable income.



Note: the figure shows household assets and debts, normalized by the number of equivalent adults. The unit of measurement is million yen (in 2010 prices).

Table 5. Income, expenditure, savings and balance sheet flows for households at the bottom 10 percentiles of disposable income.

	Income percentiles									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1989										
<i>Disposable income</i>	49	73	87	99	108	117	123	128	134	139
<i>Expenditures</i>	75	99	98	106	110	114	116	119	122	125
<i>Saving</i>	-29	-26	-11	-7	-1	3	8	9	11	14
<i>d(Asset)</i>	0	4	0	0	6	7	8	9	8	3
<i>d(Debt)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(RealAsset)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(NetWorth)</i>	0	7	1	1	10	10	13	11	14	8
<i>Asset (stock)</i>	617	545	1,069	858	769	1,101	992	1,170	1,456	1,254
<i>Debt (stock)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asset coverage</i>	14	27	42	44	37					
1994										
<i>Disposable income</i>	50	80	96	106	116	124	132	140	145	150
<i>Expenditures</i>	96	89	112	107	116	116	124	127	136	130
<i>Saving</i>	-41	-10	-17	-1	-3	5	10	11	10	20
<i>d(Asset)</i>	0	0	1	5	10	9	14	13	6	9
<i>d(Debt)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(RealAsset)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(NetWorth)</i>	0	4	0	8	13	12	19	20	14	16
<i>Asset (stock)</i>	395	889	1,149	1,398	1,601	1,683	1,048	1,677	1,769	1,858
<i>Debt (stock)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asset coverage</i>	7	51	50	54	65					
1999										
<i>Disposable income</i>	47	67	84	97	106	114	121	128	134	140
<i>Expenditures</i>	76	94	103	100	106	112	116	121	125	127
<i>Saving</i>	-39	-31	-17	-3	0	3	5	8	8	13
<i>d(Asset)</i>	-13	-8	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>d(Debt)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(RealAsset)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(NetWorth)</i>	-13	-8	-3	0	0	2	0	2	0	5
<i>Asset (stock)</i>	130	1,030	1,246	730	764	1,039	1,351	1,480	1,547	1,559
<i>Debt (stock)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asset coverage</i>	4	41	35	33						
2004										
<i>Disposable income</i>	49	75	90	101	109	118	124	131	137	143
<i>Expenditures</i>	91	99	106	105	112	118	118	120	128	128
<i>Saving</i>	-44	-24	-14	-5	-2	1	7	10	10	15
<i>d(Asset)</i>	-23	-10	-8	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(Debt)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(RealAsset)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>d(NetWorth)</i>	-27	-8	-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asset (stock)</i>	562	405	871	794	1,534	1,251	993	1,559	1,549	1,887
<i>Debt (stock)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asset coverage</i>	13	17	34	40	57					

Note: the table shows median disposable income, expenditure, saving and balance sheet flows for households at the bottom 10 percentiles of disposable income. Variable *d(NetWorth)* is the net change in net worth of poor households with children, which is decomposed into three contributing factors: (1) net change in financial assets *d(Asset)*, (2) net change in financial debt *d(Debt)*, (3) net purchase of real assets *d(RealAsset)*. *Asset coverage* shows the median number of months, required to cover the income shortfall (namely, negative savings), by running down the stock of available financial assets. Exact variable definitions are provided in *Data Appendix*. All variables are normalized by the number of equivalent adults. The unit of measurement is thousand yen (in 2010 prices).

Table 6. Alternative indicators of well-being at the bottom 5% of income and consumption (households with children, 2004).

	Percentiles of income			Percentiles of consumption			λ	p-value	Favored measure
	0-5	5-100	Difference	0-5	5-100	Difference			
	(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) - (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) - (5)			
Have a system kitchen	18.2	58.5	-40.3	14.8	58.7	-44.0	-3.6	0.054	
Have a solar water heater	3.1	7.6	-4.5	2.2	7.6	-5.4	-0.9	0.271	
Have a water heater	27.9	54.8	-27.0	21.0	55.2	-34.2	-7.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a microwave	89.5	93.4	-3.9	82.6	93.7	-11.1	-7.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a rice cooker	78.3	82.5	-4.2	72.9	82.8	-9.9	-5.7	0.005	Consumption
Have a refrigerator	92.8	93.9	-1.1	85.5	94.3	-8.7	-7.7	<0.001	Consumption
Have a vacuum cleaner	94.1	94.2	-0.1	86.6	94.6	-8.0	-8.0	<0.001	Consumption
Have a washing machine	94.0	94.2	-0.2	86.8	94.6	-7.8	-7.6	<0.001	Consumption
Have a dishwasher	8.6	23.5	-14.9	4.5	23.7	-19.2	-4.3	0.001	Consumption
Have a sewing machine	48.1	72.0	-23.9	37.2	72.6	-35.5	-11.5	<0.001	Consumption
Have an air conditioner	72.1	84.4	-12.2	65.0	84.8	-19.7	-7.5	0.001	Consumption
Have a car	76.4	88.8	-12.4	69.6	89.2	-19.6	-7.2	0.001	Consumption
Have a mobile phone	87.1	91.6	-4.5	79.3	92.0	-12.7	-8.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a fax	35.4	56.9	-21.6	30.6	57.2	-26.6	-5.0	0.031	Consumption
Have a TV	92.6	92.4	0.1	85.1	92.8	-7.8	-7.9	<0.001	Consumption
Have a CD stereo player	71.4	86.7	-15.3	63.3	87.1	-23.8	-8.5	<0.001	Consumption
Have a DVD player	22.7	32.7	-10.0	19.1	32.9	-13.9	-3.9	0.055	
Have a video recorder	75.5	86.8	-11.3	68.1	87.2	-19.1	-7.7	<0.001	Consumption
Have a computer	45.5	78.7	-33.2	40.8	79.0	-38.2	-5.0	0.030	Consumption
Have a (digital) camera	60.6	85.3	-24.7	57.5	85.5	-28.0	-3.2	0.136	
Have a video camera	44.2	68.6	-24.4	43.3	68.6	-25.4	-1.0	0.679	
Have a piano	7.1	32.9	-25.7	6.0	32.9	-26.9	-1.2	0.349	
Have a study desk	55.7	76.4	-20.7	42.8	77.1	-34.4	-13.6	<0.001	Consumption
Have a plot of land	24.2	70.8	-46.5	10.8	71.5	-60.7	-14.1	<0.001	Consumption
Have a house	24.8	74.0	-49.2	12.0	74.7	-62.7	-13.5	<0.001	Consumption
Total floor space	36.9	53.6	-16.7	32.4	53.9	-21.5	-4.8	<0.001	Consumption
Child in university	2.2	7.6	-5.3	0.7	7.6	-6.9	-1.6	0.016	Consumption

Note: the table compares income- and consumption-poor households with children at the bottom 5 percent of household distribution. For income and consumption, I used disposable income and non-durable consumption, respectively, with both measures divided by the number of equivalent adults (namely, the square root of total household members). All characteristics are for households, but weighted by the number of children. Total floor space is also divided by the number of equivalent adults. P-values are calculated from 1000 bootstrap replications. Preferred measures are not listed when the test statistic λ is insignificant.

Table 7. Alternative indicators of well-being for income-poor and consumption-poor households with children (2004).

	Both income- and consumption- poor	Only income- poor	Only consumption- poor	Neither income- nor consumption- poor	Difference	P-value	Favored measure
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) = (3) – (2)	(6)	(7)
Have a system kitchen	12.2	30.9	23.0	62.7	-7.8	<0.001	Consumption
Have a solar water heater	1.8	6.1	4.9	7.9	-1.1	0.280	
Have a water heater	21.2	39.0	26.8	57.8	-12.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a microwave	87.7	94.8	85.4	93.8	-9.4	<0.001	Consumption
Have a rice cooker	77.7	80.5	74.4	83.2	-6.1	0.002	Consumption
Have a refrigerator	91.6	94.5	85.5	94.4	-9.0	<0.001	Consumption
Have a vacuum cleaner	92.9	95.7	86.2	94.7	-9.6	<0.001	Consumption
Have a washing machine	93.0	95.6	86.4	94.6	-9.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a dishwasher	4.2	13.1	8.4	25.3	-4.7	0.001	Consumption
Have a sewing machine	42.2	60.0	50.0	74.4	-9.9	<0.001	Consumption
Have an air conditioner	69.2	80.4	70.9	85.6	-9.6	<0.001	Consumption
Have a car	72.9	85.6	79.1	89.8	-6.5	<0.001	Consumption
Have a mobile phone	85.3	92.2	81.8	92.2	-10.4	<0.001	Consumption
Have a fax	31.0	49.7	40.4	58.6	-9.3	<0.001	Consumption
Have a TV	90.9	94.1	86.0	92.8	-8.1	<0.001	Consumption
Have a CD a stereo player	70.0	81.6	73.4	87.8	-8.2	<0.001	Consumption
Have a DVD player	18.9	27.9	23.4	33.8	-4.5	0.026	Consumption
Have a video recorder	73.0	84.7	75.8	87.7	-8.8	<0.001	Consumption
Have a computer	37.7	62.6	55.6	81.5	-6.9	0.002	Consumption
Have a (digital) camera	56.5	78.1	70.6	86.8	-7.5	<0.001	Consumption
Have a video camera	42.9	57.2	55.4	70.1	-1.8	0.443	
Have a piano	4.8	16.4	12.7	35.2	-3.7	0.024	Consumption
Have a study desk	48.8	63.7	50.4	79.1	-13.3	<0.001	Consumption
Have a plot of land	11.4	43.0	22.0	76.1	-21.0	<0.001	Consumption
Have a house	12.5	45.7	24.9	79.3	-20.8	<0.001	Consumption
Total floor space	31.7	42.7	37.7	55.5	-5.0	<0.001	Consumption
Child in university	0.5	3.8	0.9	8.3	-2.8	<0.001	Consumption
Share of households	4.7	5.5	5.5	84.3			

Note: the table compares characteristics of households that are added to poverty by income- and consumption-based poverty measures. For income and consumption, I used disposable income and non-durable consumption, respectively, with both measures divided by the number of equivalent adults (namely, the square root of total household members). All characteristics are for households, but weighted by the number of children. Total floor space is also divided by the number of equivalent adults. P-values are calculated from t-test that means of two groups (only income-poor" and "only consumption poor") are the same. Preferred measures are not listed in cases when the difference between two group's averages was not significantly different, with p-value higher than the significance level of 0.05.

Appendices

A Variable definitions

A.1 Income and consumption

Disposable income = Gross annual income/12

– Total taxes

– Social security contributions

+ Imputed rent from owner-occupied housing

Total consumption expenditures = Total living expenditures

+ Imputed rent from owner-occupied housing

Non-durable consumption = Food

+ (Housing – Rents for dwelling and land)

+ Fuel, light and water charges

+ (Furniture and household utensils

– Household durables – Interior furnishings – Bedding)

+ Clothing and footwear

+ Medical care

+ (Transportation and communication

– Purchase of vehicles and bicycles)

+ Education

+ (Culture and recreation – Recreational durable goods)

+ Other consumption expenditure

– Transfers to outside the household

A.2 Household balance sheet

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total change in net worth } [d(\text{NetWorth})] &= \text{Change in net financial assets } [d(\text{Asset})] \\ &\quad - \text{Change in net financial debt } [d(\text{Debt})] \\ &\quad + \text{Change in real assets } [d(\text{Real Asset})]\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Change in net assets } d(\text{Asset}) &= (\text{Savings deposit} - \text{Savings withdrawal}) \\ &\quad + (\text{Insurance premium payments} - \text{Insurance proceeds}) \\ &\quad + (\text{Purchase of securities} - \text{Selling of securities})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Change in net debt } d(\text{Debt}) \\ &= (\text{Increase in debt for houses and land} - \text{Payment of debt for houses and land}) \\ &\quad + (\text{Purchase with installment credit} - \text{Payment of installment credit}) \\ &\quad + (\text{Increase in other debt} - \text{Payment of other debt})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Change in real assets } d(\text{Real Asset}) &= \\ &\quad \text{Real properties purchased} - \text{Real properties sold}\end{aligned}$$

[2] 教育分野から見る子どもの貧困指標

高校非卒業率の動向および子どもの貧困・学力指標との関連性の検討¹
—2002-2012 年度都道府県別データを用いた高校非卒業率の算出と変動—

末富 芳（日本大学）

■1 課題設定

「高校中退者のほとんどは、日本社会の最下層で生きる若者たちである」(青砥 2009,p.9)。高等学校における中退問題は、青少年の進路保障や子どもの貧困問題を考えるうえで重要な課題である。高校中退問題を考えるうえで、従来主要指標とされてきたのは、文部科学省「児童生徒の問題行動等生徒指導上の諸問題に関する調査」における高等学校中途退学率（中退率）であった。しかし、中途退学率が教職員の現場実感をとらえていないとし、毎日新聞は学校別に入学者数と平成 25 年度の卒業者を対比させて非卒業率を算出し、定時制の非卒業率が 60.1%など深刻な実態をあきらかにしている（毎日新聞 2014 年 9 月 22 日記事）。

本稿では、高校生のドロップアウトの都道府県別傾向について、非卒業率という指標を用いて分析を行うためのデータベース構築と基礎的分析を行う。そのために主に 2 つの手続きを実施する。(1)文部科学省「学校基本調査」より、過去 10 年(2002-2012 年度)における 47 都道府別の高校非卒業率のデータベースを構築する。その上で、都道府県別非卒業率の基礎的な変動を検証するが、ここであきらかになるのは中退率との乖離が生じること、および都道府県別、年度別の変動が大きいということである。またなぜ中退率との乖離が大きいのかという理由についても検討を加える。(2)なぜ高校非卒業率の都道府県別、年度別の変動が大きいのか、という点について、2002、2007、2012 年度の主要都道府県別、全日制・定時制別の生徒減少数および生徒減少率の推移をもとに、試論的に検討を加える。

■2 文部科学省高等学校中退率の算定方法および高等学校非卒業率データベースの構築方法

(1)文部科学省高等学校中途退学率の算定方法

文部科学省「平成 24 年度・児童生徒の問題行動等生徒指導上の諸問題に関する調査」(以下、「問題行動調査」)では高等学校の「中途退学率は、在籍者数に占める中途退学者数の割合」(文部科学省「平成 24 年度・問題行動調査」p.74)とされている。当該年度における中退者数を、全在籍者で除した者が中途退学率(以下、中退率)となる。

図 1 に文部科学省「問題行動調査」に示された中退者数・中退率の推移を示した。この図を見ると、中退者数はピーク時の 1989(平成元)年度の約 12 万人から 2012(平成 24)年度の約 5 万人へと、中退率もピーク時の 1998(平成 10)・2002(平成 14)年度の 2.5%程度から平成 24 年年度約 1.5%へと減少傾向にある。

しかしながら、中退率は「教育現場では『実感と開きがある』との声が強」く(毎日新聞 2014 年 9 月 22 日記事)、その最大の理由が、中退率が学年毎に算定されていないという点にあると思われる。中退率が高校の全在籍者を対象としてしまうことで、学年毎に生

徒指導や進路指導を行っていく現場実感とは乖離し、また分析上も学年別の変動いわゆる「学年効果」が見えなくなってしまうという課題をはらむ。

また都道府県別格差も、2012(平成 24)年度の場合、大阪府の 2.1%が最高で、福島県の 1.0%が最低と、ポイント差が小さく、高校ドロップアウト状況の地域毎の多様性が評価しづらい点も課題である。

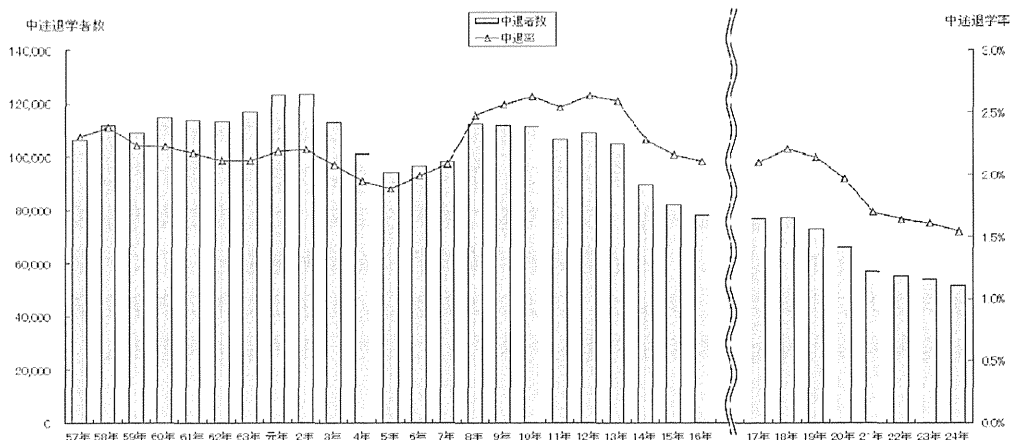


図 1 高等学校中途退学率の時系列変動

(2) 高等学校非卒業率データベースの構築方法

中退率データが学校現場の実感と乖離するゆえに、これまでも高校を所管する都道府県教育委員会等では、非卒業率や未卒業率などの独自の指標で、学年別の高校生のドロップアウトを捕捉しようとする努力が行われてきた。前述のように毎日新聞は大阪府データを用い中退や通信制への転出で高校卒業しなかった数を非卒業率として算出し、学校別(府立のみ)、課程別に把握しようとする試みを行い、東京都教育委員会も都立高校において就業年限内に何人が中途退学したかという未卒業率を学年コーホートに焦点をあてて算出している(東京都教育委員会 2011,p.3)。これらのデータによると大阪府立高校の非卒業率が 10.2%(全日制 8.3%、定時制 60.1%、2013 年度卒業生)、東京都の未卒業率が全日制 5.5%、定時制 38.9%(2011 年度卒業生)といずれも中退率より高い数値が算出されている。

これらの試みは、当該都道府県内のドロップアウトの実態を詳細に把握することを可能としてきた。しかし全国的な高校生のドロップアウト政策の立案や、あるいは実証分析の視点からは、都道府県間の高校生の非卒業率の地域別変動、また時系列変動がどのようなものであるのかも、重要な課題である。

先行研究では、高等学校の中退理由を進路意識や心理面での要因から明らかにしたもの(片山 2008)、また高校中退率と就業率との相関を指摘したもの(高橋・玄田 2004)などがあるが、都道府県別の高校生ドロップアウト指標(中退率・非卒業率)の地域別変動や時系列変動を実証した調査研究は少なくとも 2000 年代以降は存在せず、データベースの構築と分析には、一定の意義が認められると判断した。

高等学校非卒業率データベースの構築手法は以下の通りである。