

Does Effective Government Lower COVID-19's Health Impact? Evidence from Viet Nam

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Introduction

- More developed governments could mitigate the adverse effects of a health crisis by better preparing for the crisis through having adequate responses and preventive infrastructure.
- Appearance and evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic show that some developing countries with limited resources and inferior healthcare capacities could respond well

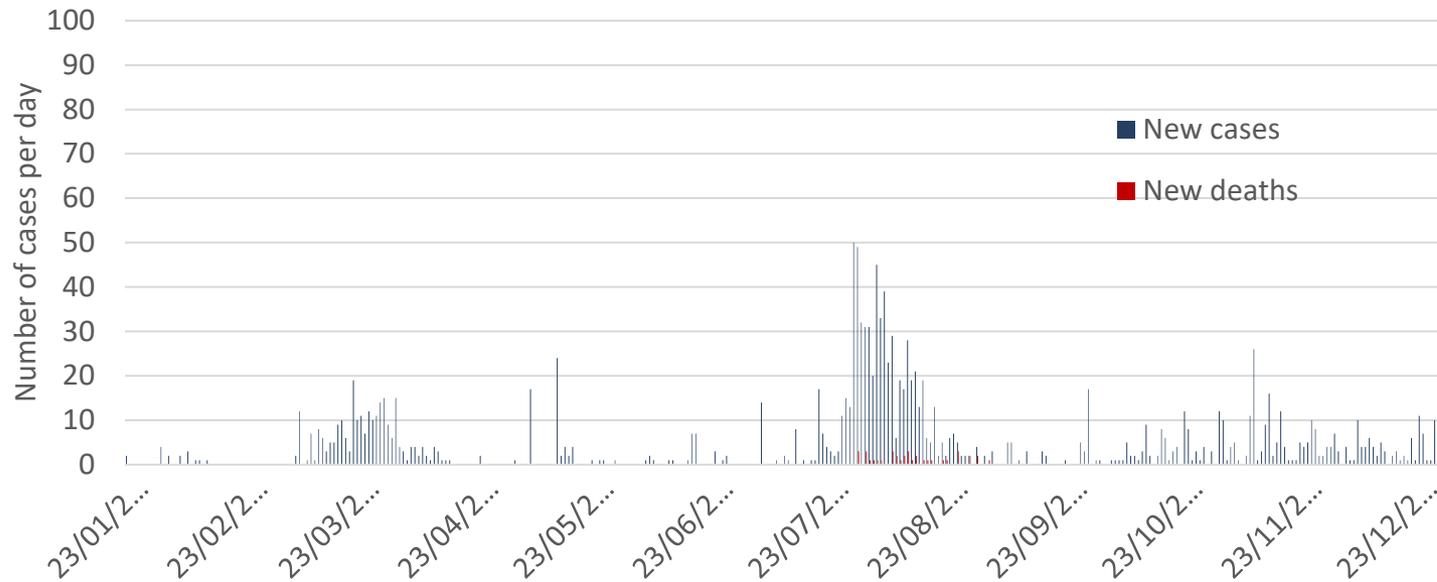


Research Questions

- ✓ Examine the relationship between the effectiveness of local government and COVID-19's health impacts in Viet Nam
- ✓ Which aspects are more effective?



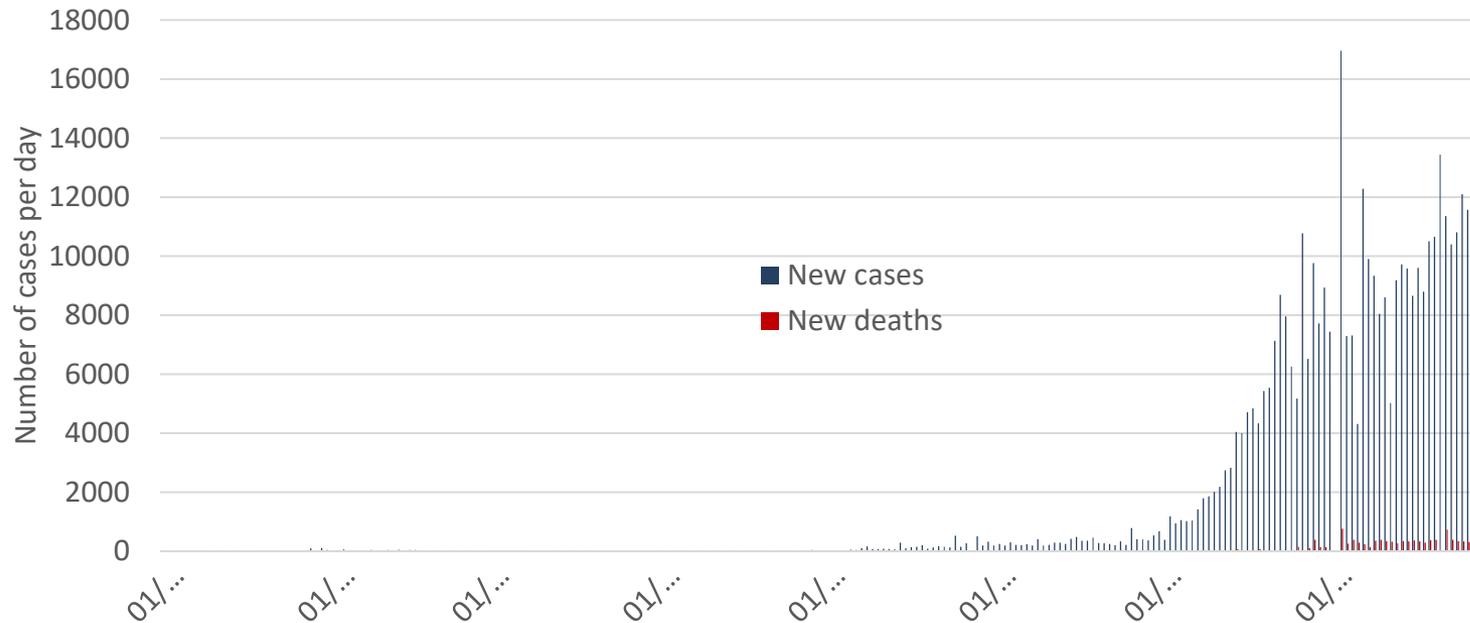
COVID-19 in Vietnam and government's responses



- Viet Nam successfully controlled the disease in 2020, using the same tactics (tracing, testing, lockdown)



COVID-19 in Vietnam and government's responses



- The fourth COVID-19 outbreak that started in May 2021 has led to the sharpest increases in locally transmitted infections since the onset of the pandemic



Government's effectiveness

- Strong government leadership
 - Clear vision of “people’s safety first” that was accepted as the national consensus and its rules on quarantine, social distancing, and movement between provinces, free testing, and treatment, support to people who were in quarantine centers and affected by the pandemic



Government's effectiveness

- Prioritize transparency and allowed information exchange
 - Information on the COVID-19 pandemic, scenarios, and government policy interventions was disseminated in an open, diverse, and timely manner, followed by widespread policy consultation



Government's effectiveness

- Coordination problems
 - conflicts between different levels of government regarding the strategy to control the virus and achieve economic growth
 - fear punishment and conservatism of local authorities: imposition of harsher conditions and requirements at the local level

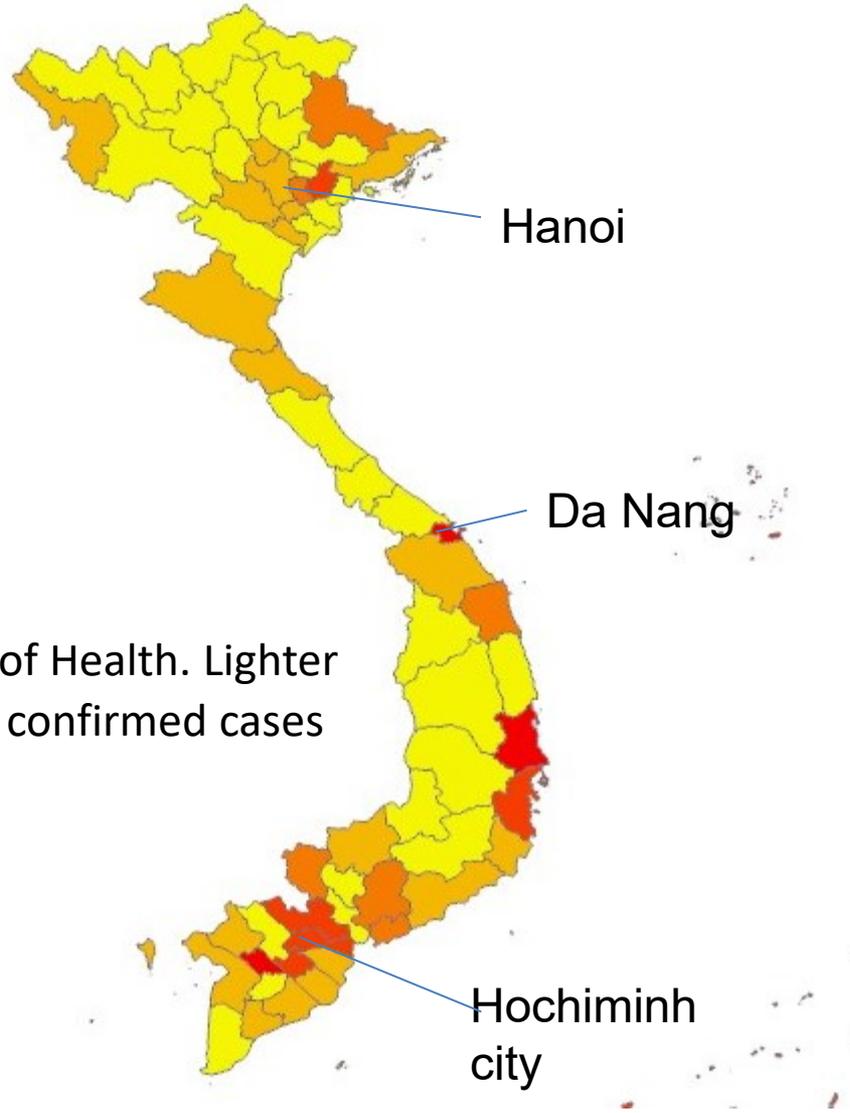


Data Source and Description

- **Measure of pandemic outcomes**
 - confirmed COVID-19 cases (i.e. infections), confirmed COVID-19 deaths
 - Accumulated number of cases and deaths linked to COVID-19 as of 31 July 2021.
 - This cut-off date is before Viet Nam implemented widespread lockdowns in many provinces, especially in the South due to the spread of the Delta variant.



Data Source and description



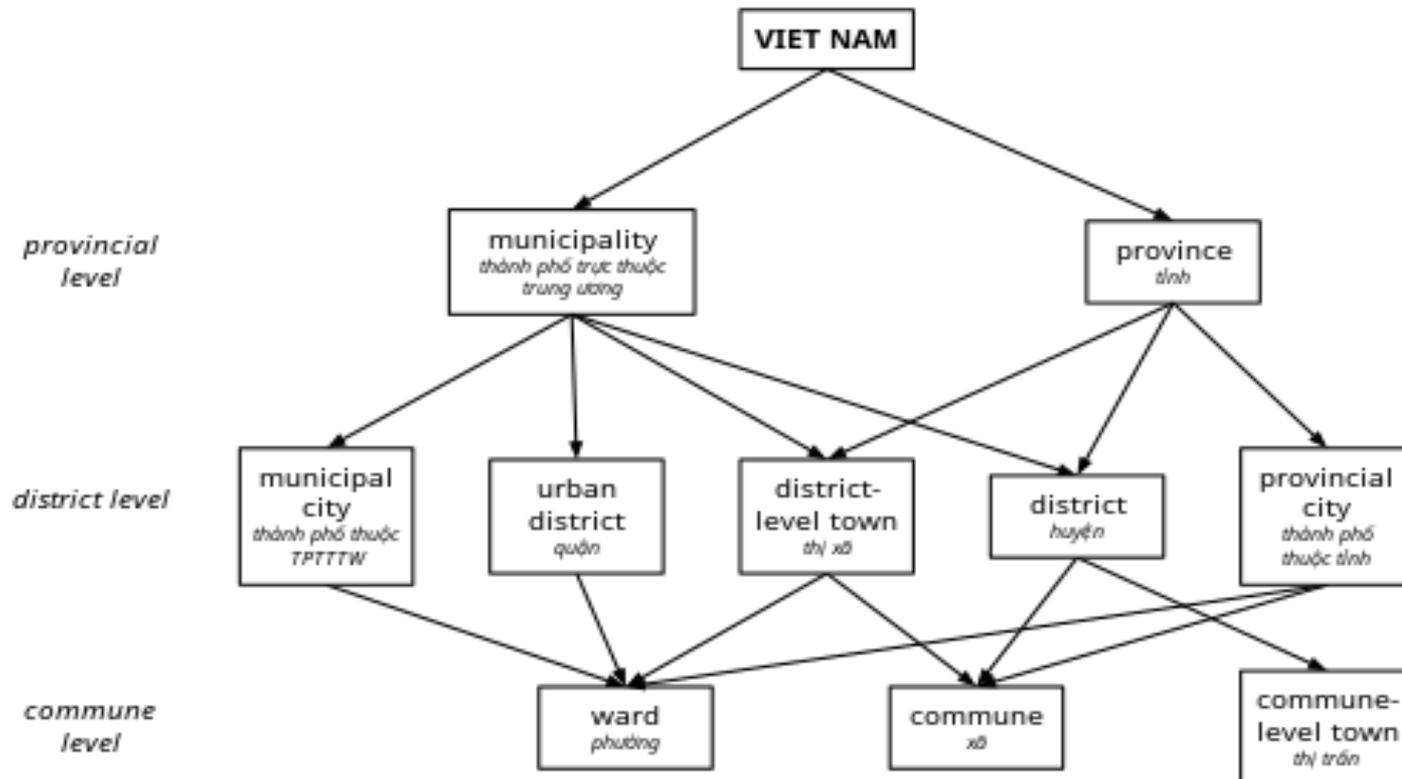
Source: Viet Nam's Ministry of Health. Lighter colors mean a lower level of confirmed cases per 100 thousand citizens.

Data Source and Description

- **Measures of effectiveness of local government**
 - Use the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) in 2019, which was specifically designed to measure the quality of governance at the local level
 - Annual survey conducted since 2010 by the United Nations Development Program and Vietnam Fatherland Front
 - All 63 provinces were included in the sample



Vietnamese administrative structure



Data Source and Description

- **Measures of effectiveness of local government**
 - Main index is calculated at the individual level first before averaging respondent scores into an unweighted index (with a score ranging from 10 to 60)
 - six sub-indices measures:
 - Participation
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Control of Corruption
 - Administrative Procedures
 - Public Services



Data Source and Description

- **Local government capacity**
 - Quality of public healthcare
 - Number of hospital beds/mil
- **Local government legitimacy**
 - Participation
 - Transparency
 - Accountability



Relationship between GE and health outcomes

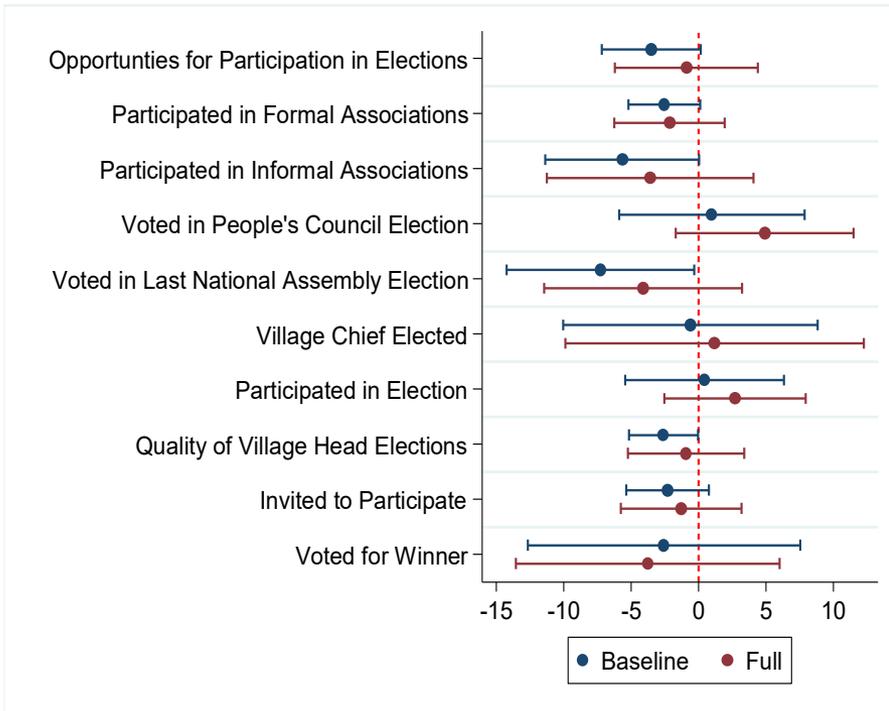
$$Cases_i = \alpha + \beta ELG_i + X_i + \varepsilon_i$$

Where:

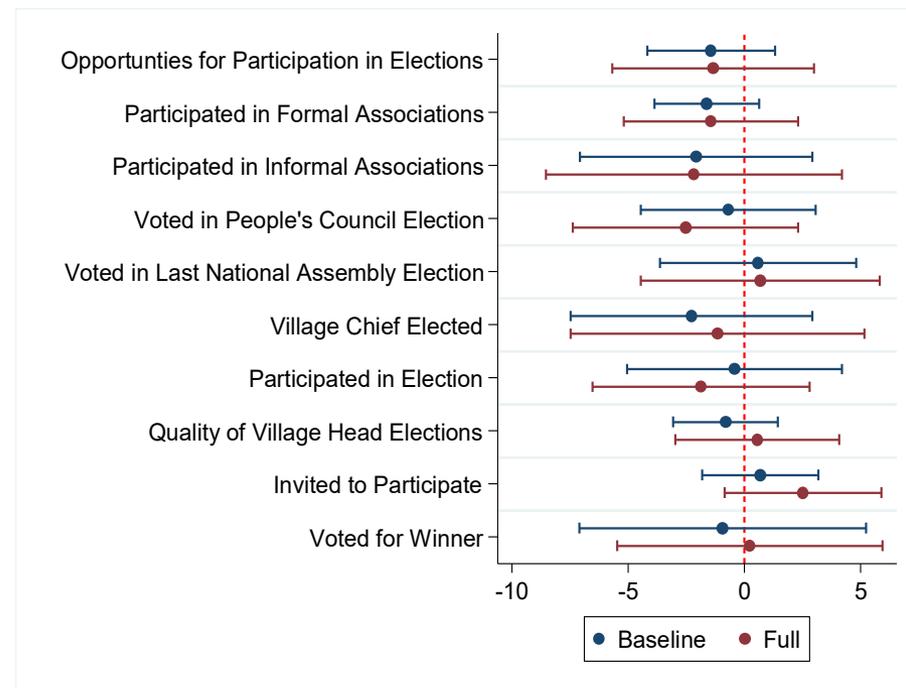
- $Cases_i$ is ln accumulative number of infected cases and deaths in province i in 2020 - 2021
- ELG_i is different proxies for local government effectiveness in province i
- X_i are province characteristics
- ε_i are error term



Participation and health outcomes



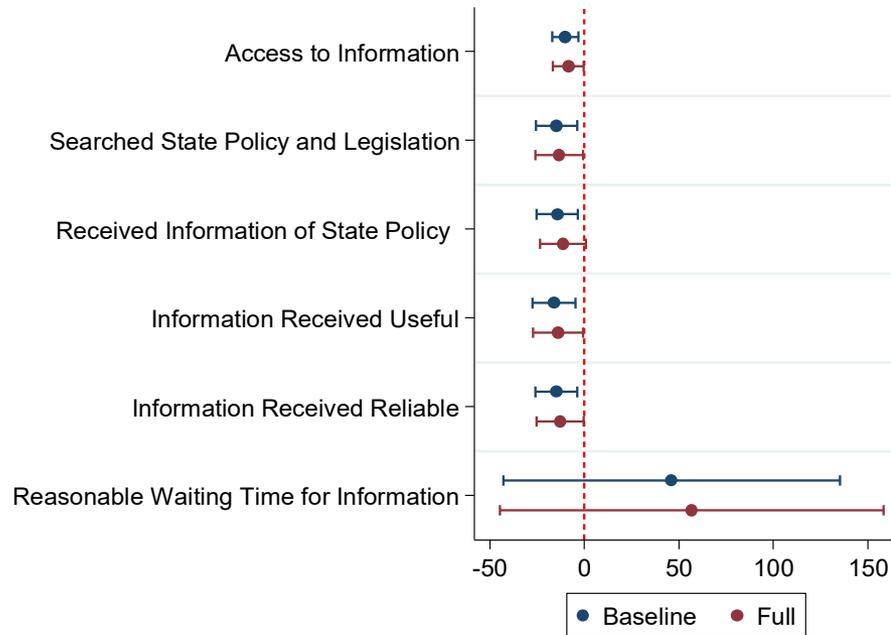
Infected cases



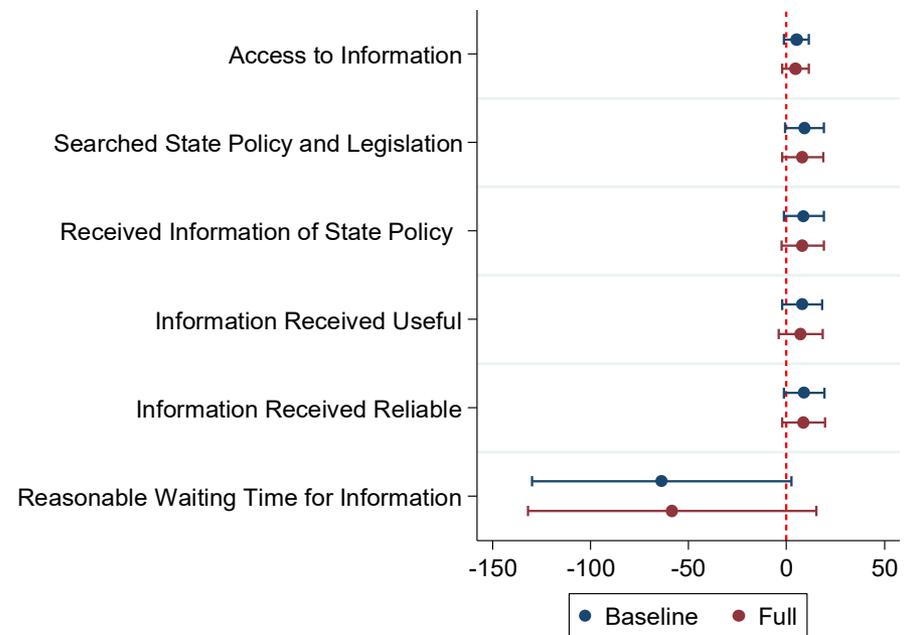
Deaths

Provinces, where people have higher opportunities for participation in elections, tend to have lower infected cases

Transparency and health outcomes



Infected cases

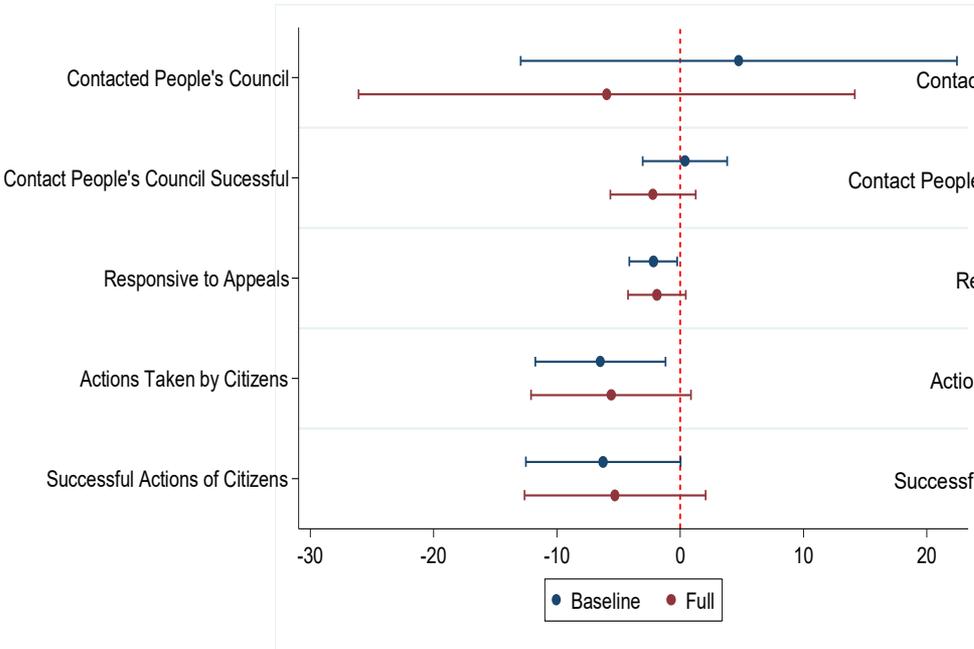


Deaths

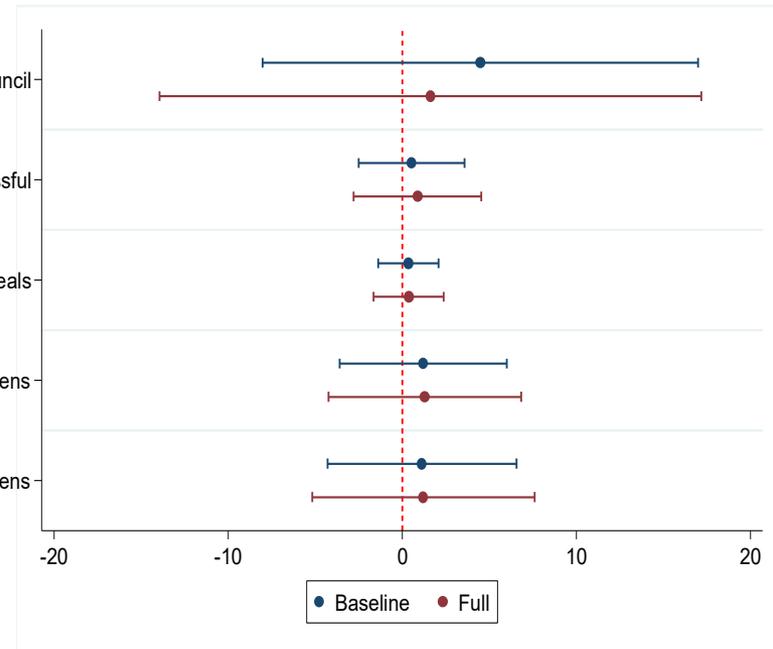
Improvements in governance transparency lead to lower levels of health impacts



Accountability and health outcomes



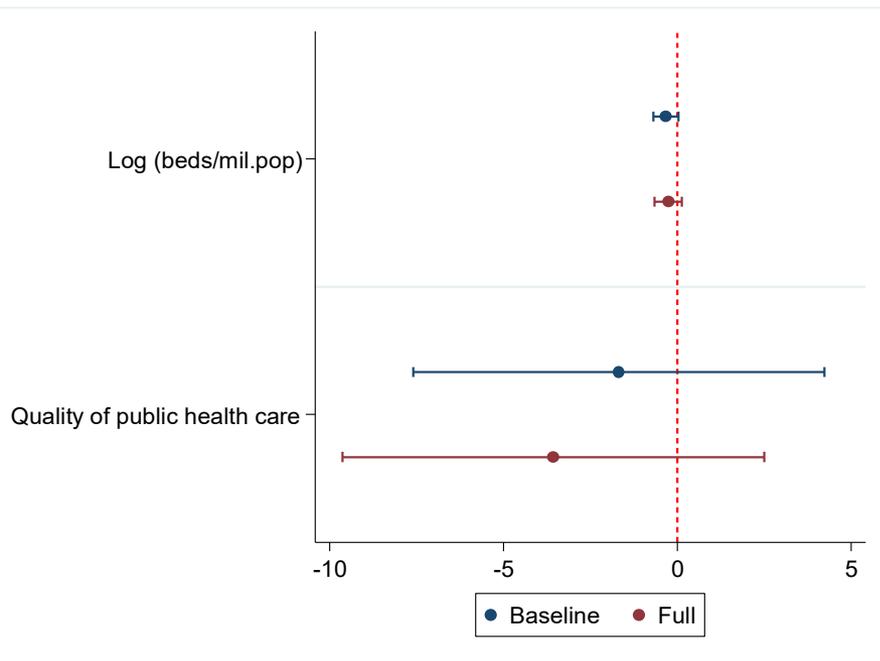
Infected cases



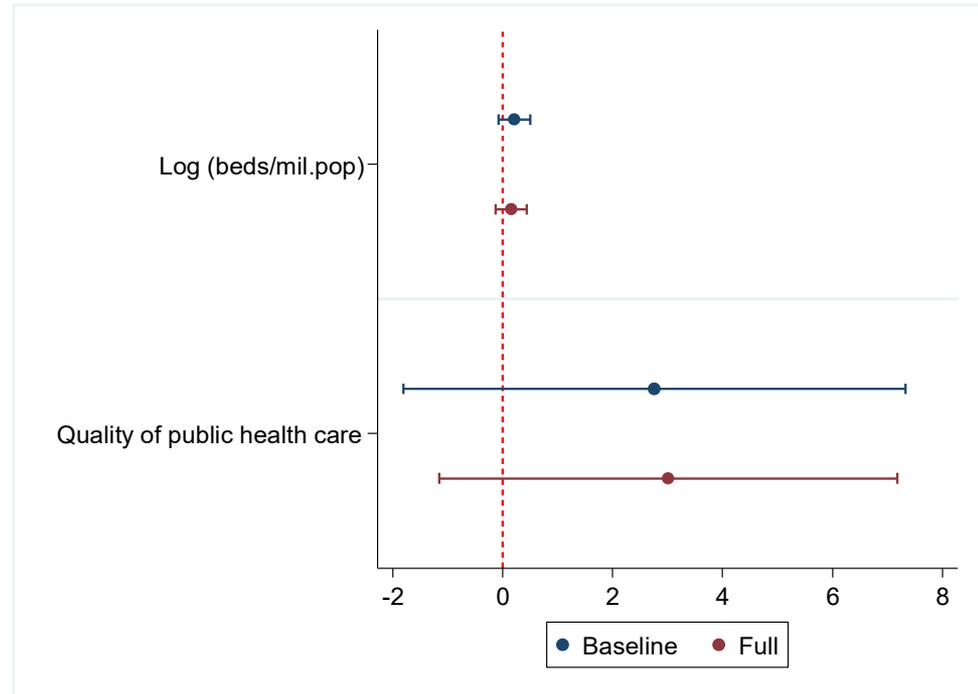
Deaths

Improvement in accountability will reduce the number of infected cases

Capacity and health outcomes



Infected cases



Deaths

Increased health infrastructure is significantly associated with decreased infected rates

Conclusion

- Discuss different aspects of government effectiveness in explaining the variation in the COVID-19 confirmed cases and death levels in Viet Nam
- Use the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index in 2019
- Importance of health system capacity in the battle against COVID-19
- Increased government transparency is significantly associated with lower confirmed rates
- Provinces where people have higher opportunities for participation in elections tend to have lower infected cases



THANK YOU
COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

