

Interactive comment on “Uncovering the 2010 Haiti earthquake death toll” by J. E. Daniell et al.

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The issue of the death toll resulting from the 2010 earthquake in Haiti has received a lot of attention. You rightfully note that these numbers matter, though I second Dr. Wald's comments that they may in fact not be knowable. In addition to Dr. Wald's comments on methods and assumptions, I wanted to add two quick comments on references:

(1) You may be interested to read a 2011 article by Kolbe et al. on this topic: Kolbe, A. R., Hutson, R. A., Shannon, H., Trzcinski, E., Miles, B., Levitz, N., et al. (2010). Mortality, crime and access to basic needs before and after the Haiti earthquake: a random survey of Port-au-Prince households. *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, 26(4), 281–297. doi:10.1080/13623699.2010.535279

Kolbe and team had collected extensive household data prior to the earthquake for an-

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other study, and followed-up with 93% of these households after the earthquake. They use these pre and post-earthquake surveys to extrapolate fatalities. It's an interesting study.

Another relevant references from the same authors can be found here: <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/12/opinion/la-oe-muggah-haiti-count-20110712>

(2) The field damage data you refer to is definitely not a "Miyamoto International damage survey", nor a USAID/OFDA survey, but a government of Haiti initiative. To be precise, it was led and implemented by the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Communication ("Ministere des Travaux Publics, Transports et Communications" or MTPTC). It was funded by the World Bank and GFDRR and later additional funds were provided by USAID-OFDA. UNOPS provided logistic and operational support, and Miyamoto International provided training and supervision to the engineers. All these details are not necessary, but it would be a shame not to properly credit the Government of Haiti for one of their largest and most successful post-disaster initiatives. I'm happy to provide more details if you are interested.

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