

## Excess Mortality, COVID-19, and Financial Inclusion Rates in Romania – Identifying Connections

Stefan Johnson

Charles University, Prague, Czechia, Department of Demography and Geodemography

### Abstract

COVID-19 swept across the globe in the late months of 2019 and the early months of 2020. Excess deaths became a focus of discussion towards the end of 2020 and 2021. This paper explores the relationships between Romania's excess mortality rates and financial inclusion rates across all age groups 15 and above. Results show that certain age groups show quite significant relationships between excess mortality rates and age-specific financial inclusion rates. The results are more interesting when observing the age-specific income quantile financial inclusion rates. Results show that the third income quantile demonstrate the most significant relationships. The age group with the most significant correlation between financial inclusion and excess mortality was 35-39, where  $r=0.97$ . Romania's 2021 financial inclusion rates jumped from 58% to 69%. This research aimed to identify if there were any links between income quantile and age-specific financial inclusion rates and excess mortality, which there appear to be.

**Keywords:** Excess Mortality, Romania, Financial Inclusion, COVID-19