This study attempts to examine the effect of cognitive levels of social capital on health behaviors, specifically participation in annual health check-up in the community. It was argued that one of the strategies to achieve world longest life expectancy was health check-up system in Japan (Tatara et al. 1991). Although all Japanese aged ≥40 are entitled to attend annual health check-up, participation rate varies based on regions. This study tries to explore factors associated with participation of health check-ups in the community. Examined participants were 103,621 (55,941 male, 47,680 female) aged ≥ 65, physically and cognitively independent.

Poisson regression with robust variance estimator was used to see the association between social capital and the health check-up participation, and further analysis were conducted with propensity score matching techniques. After controlling for socio-demographic and other health-related factors, result indicated that higher levels of social capital were associated with participation in health check-up services, suggesting protective roles of social capital on health behaviors.