Summary or abstract for your submission:

According to the 2020 United States Census, the population aged 65 and older expanded at a rate nearly five times faster than the overall population from 1920 to 2020[1]. This rapid growth poses significant challenges, potentially straining healthcare systems, social security programs, and the economy. This trend is especially pronounced in states like Florida (FL), which has one of the highest concentrations of elderly residents (21.3%, or 4.5 million) and records the highest net inflow of people aged 65 and above [2]. Additionally, Florida faces one of the most acute physician shortages, with limited access to primary care providers[3]. This underscores the need to explore factors that can modify the health of the elderly population.

Living environments are well-known determinants of health [4]. Although older adults spend approximately 70% of their time indoors [5–7], there has been limited exploration into how different living conditions—such as residing in nursing homes versus private homes—affect their health outcomes in the U.S. while this subject is extensively studied in Europe[8–10]. While there is valuable research on how living environments influence the health of older adults, much of this work has utilized aggregated data or data specific to certain regions, such as cities or neighborhoods. Further exploration into the diverse living conditions across broader areas could enhance our understanding of their impacts on mortality.

To fill this gap, our study will utilize individual-level mortality data linked with detailed real estate data, which provide rich information about living conditions to examine the impacts of various living conditions on the mortality rates of the elderly population in Florida over an extended period (2000–2022). We aim to investigate all causes of death and explore how these impacts differ according to living arrangements, such as nursing homes versus private residences (including apartments, condos, houses, or mobile homes). Additionally, we will control for various demographic (e.g., gender, age) and environmental factors (e.g., proximity to care facilities) to better understand and develop strategies that can effectively mitigate these risks. The outcome of this study will be able to inform policymakers and the public about critical factors that enhance the health and longevity of our aging population.

Conflict of interests:

The author declares that there are no financial relationships or other conflicts of interest relevant to this submission, as per the guidelines outlined in the NBER research dissemination disclosure policy.

Optional comments or information for the conference organizers:

I am excited about the potential opportunity to contribute to the workshop on "Aging and Health" as it represents a valuable opportunity for my development as an early-career scholar. My engagement with esteemed colleagues at the Center for Policy Research on Ageing (CEPRA) at Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI) and scholars with various backgrounds will significantly enrich my research perspective. This interaction is particularly valuable given the advanced state of study on these topics within the European academic community. Participating in this workshop will allow me to share my insights and refine my approaches through fruitful discussions with leading experts in the field.

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