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## **“The Importance of Being Surveyed: The Representativeness and Impact of the Vietnam Household Living Standards Surveys”**

### **Abstract**

Using census data from 1999 and 2009 we test the representativeness of the Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS) and its impact on households' possessions of durable goods, housing conditions and educational attainment. We find that households residing in VHLSS communes were on average better off than households living in other communes both in 1999 and 2009. We also find that the shares of households with better housing conditions and educational attainment increased more in the VHLSS communes than other communes from 1999 to 2009, indicating a causal effect on household wellbeing of communes being included in the VHLSS sample