<u>Title:</u> Recent trends in subnational mortality in Austria

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Short abstract:

We examine mortality trends and patterns at the subnational level in Austria from 2003 - 2019. Our data spans 116 districts for each sex. A methodological challenge arises due to the stochasticity in death counts in small populations. To stabilize the estimates, we apply a novel Bayesian model that allows for estimating mortality rates for both sexes simultaneously (Dharamshi et al., 2023). We present first results obtained using this model. Furthermore, we showcase our strategy for model validation and point to challenges we have encountered thus far.