

Trends in the ratio of injured to fatalities in earthquakes

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The worldwide ratio $\bar{R} = \text{Inj}/\text{Fat}$ has increased steadily over time (Table 1). This shows that it is more likely that a person survives an earthquake today than years ago. However, any meaningful analysis of \bar{R} requires (as a minimum) separation by type of country and by location of epicenter (land or offshore). \bar{R} in earthquakes beneath land is typically half of that for events offshore. \bar{R} in the industrialized world is about 2 to 3 times larger than in the developing world (Table 1). The countries that have made the greatest progress in protecting their population are Japan and China. Countries where \bar{R} has not increased with time include Iran, Turkey, and Greece (Table 1). The basic trends are clear, but the data sets for some individual countries are too small for the averages to be considered firm.

Dataset	500-1899	1900-1949	1950-1969	1970-1985	1986-2008
World	1.2 (72)	2.8 (121)	5.4 (139)	4.3 (104)	6.9 (190)
Land, shallow					
Developing no China			3.0 (45)	3.2 (23)	4.8 (53)
Industrialized no Japan			9.4 (44)		11.2 (20)
China			2.5 (35)		12.8 (35)
Japan			6.6 (21)		47.5 (6)
Latin America				2.6 (12)	8.0 (11)
Turkey and Iran			2.6 (19)		3.6 (26)
Greece			18.6 (9)		11.2 (5)
Italy			3.9 (8)		7.0 (5)

Table 1: Ratio of injured to fatalities as a function of time and country. In the top row, all events are considered, below only shallow earthquakes on land. Numbers of events are given in parentheses. Periods used for averaging are shaded.