

Trends and socioeconomic inequality of the burden of congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract among children and adolescents

Guohua He^{1*}, Yunfei Liu^{2,3*}, Arvind Bagga⁴, Chinyere Ukamaka Onubogu^{5,6}, Franz Schaefer⁷, Zhiyong Zou^{2,3}, William E. Smoyer⁸, Nianzhou Xiao⁹, Tianxin Lin^{10,11}, Ali Asghar Lanewala¹², Hee Gyung Kang¹³, Muhammad Zeeshan Waheed¹⁴, Seungkyo Park¹⁵, Xiaoyun Jiang¹, Yi Song^{2,3}, Jie Ding¹⁶

*Contributed equally

Correspondence to:

Yi Song; E-mail: songyi@bjmu.edu.cn

Xiaoyun Jiang; E-mail: jxiaoy@mail.sysu.edu.cn

1Department of Pediatric Nephrology and Rheumatology, The First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China;

2Institute of Child and Adolescent Health, School of Public Health, Peking University, Beijing, China;

3National Health Commission Key Laboratory of Reproductive Health, Beijing, China;

4Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi 110029, India;

5Pediatrics Department, Faculty of Medicine, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria;

6Pediatrics Department, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi, Nigeria;

7Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Center for Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine,

Heidelberg University Hospital, Heidelberg, Germany;

1 8Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH,
2 USA;

3 9Department of Nephrology, Valley Children's Healthcare, Madera, CA, USA;

4 10Department of Urology, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University,
5 Guangzhou, China;

6 11Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Malignant Tumor Epigenetics and Gene
7 Regulation, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China;

8 12Department of Pediatric Nephrology, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation,
9 Karachi, Pakistan;

10 13Department of Pediatrics, Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul National University
11 College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea;

12 14Department of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, Sun Yat-sen
13 University, Guangzhou, China;

14 15Division of Integrated Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine,
15 Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea;

16 16 Department of Pediatrics, Peking University First Hospital, Beijing, China. Recall international
17 standards which contribution qualifies for authorship.

18

19 Running head: CAKUT Burden in Children and Adolescents Globally

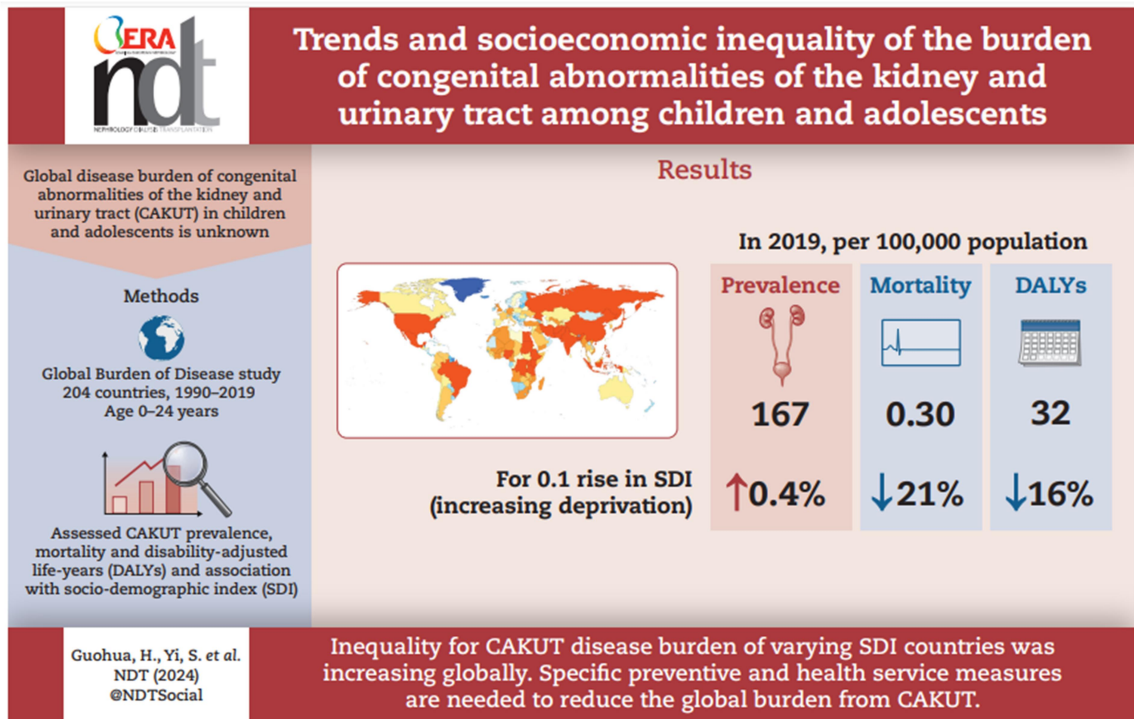
20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



ABSTRACT

Background.

Although congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) is the leading cause of childhood onset chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure, comprehensive information on the disease burden among children and adolescents globally is lacking. We aim to report the trends and socioeconomic inequality of CAKUT burden for people aged 0-24 years from 1990 to 2019.

Methods.

We reported the prevalence, mortality and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) for CAKUT based on the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2019, quantified the association of disease burden and socio-demographic index (SDI), calculated the slope index of inequality (SII) the relative index of inequality (RII) and concentration index.

Results.

In 2019, the global prevalence, mortality, and DALYs of CAKUT among individuals aged 0-24 years were 167.11 (95%Confident Interval 166.97, 167.25), 0.30 (0.29, 0.30), and 32.22 (32.16, 32.29) per 100 000 population. The greatest prevalence, mortality and DALYs were recorded in the 0-4 year age group. The greatest mortality and DALYs were recorded in low SDI countries and territories. During 1990 to 2019, the prevalence, mortality and DALYs decreased globally, while in low and low-middle

countries and territories the reduction was much less slower. India, Nigeria and Pakistan had the highest DALYs. Saudi Arabia and China exhibited a markedly decrease of CAKUT burden. Globally for every 0.1 increase in SDI, there was a 20.53% reduction in mortality, a 16.31% decrease in DALYs, but a 0.38% rise in prevalence.

Conclusions.

Inequality for disease burden of varying SDI was increasing globally. Thus, specific preventive and health service measures are needed to reduce the global burden from CAKUT.

Keywords: congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT), disease burden, inequality

KEY LEARNING POINTS

What was known:

Although congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) is the leading cause of childhood onset chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure worldwide, neither comprehensive and recent information on the disease burden among children and adolescents globally, nor its socioeconomic inequality status across countries and territories are available.

This study adds:

In 2019, the global prevalence, mortality, and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) of CAKUT were 167.11, 0.30, and 32.22 per 100 000 population individuals aged 0-24 years. Low socio-demographic index (SDI) countries bearded the heaviest burden and the inequality of CAKUT burden between different SDI countries increased in the last 30 years.

Potential impact:

Inequality in disease burden of CAKUT has increased across SDI groups. Specific preventive and health service measures - prenatal and postnatal ultrasound screening and health resources

investment in low and low-middle SDI countries and territories, improved access to kidney replacement therapy globally - are needed to reduce the CAKUT burden.

INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) with a global prevalence of 9.1%, affecting 697.5 million people and causing 1.2 million death in 2017,¹ is the 18th leading cause of global disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost with a 93% increase from 1990 to 2019.² CKD is expected to become the 5th leading cause of death by 2040 globally.³ Children and adolescents with CKD and kidney failure are facing a higher risk of mortality that is estimated at 30 to 1000 fold of their healthy counterpart's.⁴ As the most important underlying cause of childhood onset CKD and kidney failure, congenital abnormalities of the kidney and urinary tract (CAKUT) attributes to 20-59% of CKD cases among the pediatric population.⁵⁻¹⁰ Comprehensive analysis of the global burden of CAKUT among children and adolescents remain scarce, other than data from single centers, single district, specific disease populations, or restricted in infancy.⁵⁻¹⁰

Understanding of the current disease burden of CAKUT might accelerate policy actions to achieve progress for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target to end avertable deaths in children under five and the WHO Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health,^{11,12} and aligns with the emphasis of World Kidney Day 2024 on promoting equitable kidney health, providing a structured pathway towards achieving targeted health outcomes for all.¹³ However, the disease burden of adolescents have been overlooked in global health and social policy. Even though previous studies had revealed socioeconomic inequalities in CKD disease burden,^{1,14,15} they neither focused on CAKUT, nor explored its association with socioeconomic development. Although one study had described socioeconomic inequalities in urogenital congenital anomalies,¹⁶ it

1 did not specifically focus on children and adolescents, nor did it explore the underlying cause or
2 propose comprehensive strategies for amelioration on an international scale.

3
4 In the present study, we aimed to estimate the global, regional, and national burden of CAKUT
5 among children and adolescents in 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2019 using estimates
6 from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2019. We also aimed to
7 quantify the magnitude and direction of temporal trends in exemplary countries and territories, and
8 further explore CAKUT inequalities in socioeconomic development status, which might contribute to
9 track progress, map resource requirements, and help in policy making and implementation towards
10 prevention and tackling the growing burden of CAKUT.

12 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

13 **Overview and data definitions**

14 The GBD 2019 provides a systematic scientific estimation of publicly available, published and
15 contributed data with enhanced method performance and standardization on prevalence, mortality,
16 and DALYs of 369 injuries and diseases for 204 countries and territories from 1990 to 2019 by age,
17 sex and country. In most studies, CAKUT can be sub-grouped to congenital obstructive uropathies,
18 renal hypoplasia, dysplasia, oligonephronia and reflux nephropathy,^{5,6,17,18} which is collectively
19 reported under urogenital congenital anomalies in GBD 2019 dataset (Appendix Table 1). In this
20 cross-sectional study, we encompassed all instances of CAKUT, not restricted to CAKUT instances
21 associated with CKD. CAKUT was defined based on registered diagnoses, without considering eGFR ,
22 or CKD stages as well. As a result, our study focus on CAKUT diagnosis without considering CKD
23 stages. We studied CAKUT burden using the prevalence, mortality, and DALYs of urogenital
24 congenital anomalies to represent the disease burden of CAKUT among the 0-24-year age group
25 included in the GBD 2019 database (Details of data source description in Appendix Methods, For the

Global Health Data Exchange see <https://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>). Cause of death data obtained from vital registration with medical certification using the International Classification of Diseases and Injuries (ICD) 9 were mapped to the GBD cause list.² This study followed the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) reporting guidelines.

Data analysis

We calculated age-standardized prevalence and DALYs per 100,000 population and 95% confidence interval (CI) from 1990 to 2019 applying the world standard population in the GBD 2019 (<https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/>). We also calculated the average annual percent change (AAPC) and 95% CI using log-transformed linear regression. We performed subgroup analyses stratified by age (0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24 years), sex (male and female), socio-demographic index (SDI) (high, high-middle, middle, low-middle, and low SDI categories). We used log-transformed fixed effect panel data regression model to identify the association between SDI and disease burden, while country was used as the group variable and year was used as the time variable. We calculated the slope index of inequality (SII), the relative index of inequality (RII) and concentration index to measure the inequality between countries and territories. The SII represents the absolute age-standardized rates difference between the lowest SDI group and the highest SDI group. A negative SII value indicates higher age-standardized rates in the low SDI group. The RII represents the relative rate difference. We also plotted the concentration curve and calculated the concentration index to describe the differences. A negative Concentration index reflects that there are higher age-standardized rates in the low SDI group. Statistical analyses were carried out using the R program version 4.2.1 (R Development Core Team, Vienna, Austria). P values <0.05 (2-tailed) were considered significant. (Details of Methods description in Appendix Methods)

Ethical approval and informed consent were waived because the GBD dataset was publicly available and no identifiable information was included in the analyses.

RESULTS

Overview of the global disease burden of CAKUT

A total of 5 313 105 people aged 0-24 years (2 661 405 male [50.96%]; 2 651 700 female [49.91%]) were included in the analysis. In 2019, the global prevalence, mortality, and DALYs of CAKUT among individuals aged 0-24 years were estimated at 167.11 (95%Confident Interval 166.97, 167.25), 0.30 (0.29, 0.30), and 32.22 (32.16, 32.29) per 100 000 population respectively (Table 1). The absolute number of prevalence, mortality, and DALYs of CAKUT encompassed the sum of CKD caused by hypertension, diabetes mellitus, glomerulonephritis and other and unspecific cause in 0-4 years age group. Among five categories of SDI countries and territories, the Low SDI countries and territories bearded the highest rates of prevalence, mortality and DALYs of CAKUT In children under 1 year old. (Appendix Figure 1, Appendix Table 2). From 1990 to 2019, the global age-standardized prevalence rate per 100,000 population showed little change, while the mortality and DALYs significantly declined (Table 1, Figure 1).

Disease burden of CAKUT by age and sex

In 2019, the 0-4 years age group had the highest prevalence, mortality, and DALYs as 402.28 (299.53, 527.67), 1.36 (0.97, 1.85), 134.79 (98.65, 178.58) per 100 000 population respectively (Table1, Appendix Figure 1). In children under 1 year old, the absolute number of deaths (8,639.12 [6,239.00, 11,581.35]) and DALYs (797,114.04 [581,160.40, 1,061,837.54]) significantly exceeded the combined totals from all other age groups. (Appendix Figure 2, Appendix Table 2). In 2019, mortality and DALYs of CAKUT were both higher in male than female (Table 1, Appendix Figure 3).

1 Disease burden of CAKUT by SDI

2 In 2019, Low SDI countries and territories bore the greatest mortality and DALYs, while low-middle
3 SDI countries and territories bore the greatest prevalence (Table 1). All SDI categories showed a
4 reduction in age-standardized DALYs rates from 1990 to 2019, with the highest relative reduction
5 observed in high SDI (AAPC: -2.21% [-2.29, -2.12]). Conversely, the relative reduction of DALYs rates
6 in low SDI (AAPC: -0.40% [-0.47, -0.33]) and low-middle SDI countries and territories (AAPC: -0.77% [-
7 0.86, -0.69]) was considerably less steep (Table 1, Figure 2). There was a notable global reduction of
8 28.48% in the absolute number of DALYs but with a substantial increase of 41.07% only in low SDI
9 countries and territories from 1990 to 2019 (Figure 2, Appendix Table 3).

10

11 Changes of Disease burden of CAKUT in exemplary countries and territories from 1990 to 12 2019

13 Among 204 countries, Saudi Arabia and China were two of the typical countries which showed the
14 deepest rates changes of mortality and DALYs between 1990 and 2019. It could be witnessed obvious
15 changes in Saudi Arabia, where had a substantial increase in SDI from 0.480 in 1990 to 0.805 in 2019,
16 accompanied by a large reduction in mortality from 1.33 (1.14, 1.56) to 0.30 (0.21, 0.43) and DALYs
17 from 125.45 (123.47, 127.45) to 33.95 (32.88, 35.05) (Appendix Table 4-6). Meanwhile, from 1990 to
18 2019, China exhibited markedly decrease in mortality with an AAPC of -5.66% (-6.00, -5.33), and
19 DALYs with an AAPC of -4.10% (-4.37, -3.82) (Appendix Table 4-6). China exhibited a significant
20 reduction in DALYs absolute numbers, which contributed to more than 25% of the global decline
21 (absolute numbers decrease: 408046.97 globally and 111173.45 in China) over the three decades
22 (Appendix Table 3 and 6).

23

24 India, Pakistan, and Nigeria topped the list for the highest disease burden of DALYs related to CAKUT
25 in 2019. Nigeria experienced an increase in age-standardized prevalence, mortality and DALYs from

1 1990 to 2019. Conversely, both India and Pakistan saw slight declines in age-standardized DALYs
2 rates, even both countries experienced an increase in prevalence. Yet India and Pakistan still
3 accounted for nearly a quarter of the global DALYs burden (Appendix Table 4-6).

4 **Panel regression and inequality analysis of disease burden correlated with the SDI**

5 For every 0.1 increase in SDI, there was a 20.53% reduction in age-standardized mortality, a
6 16.31% decrease in DALYs, but a 0.38% rise in prevalence rate among individuals aged 0-24
7 years. However, on subgroup analysis, after the age of 5, prevalence was positively
8 correlated with SDI. After the age of 15, both mortality and DALYs were positively correlated
9 with SDI. This means that in these age groups, as SDI increases, the age-standardized rates
10 also increased (Table 2, Appendix Figure 4).

11 Significant absolute and relative SDI-related inequalities in the disease burden were
12 observed, with a disproportionate higher burden shouldered by countries with lower SDI. As
13 illustrated by the concentration index, the gap in prevalence, mortality and DALYs between
14 the highest and the lowest SDI country all increased from 1990 to 2019. Moreover, most of
15 the magnitudes of slope index of inequality the SII and RII in 2019 were higher than those in
16 1990. The overall results suggested that the SDI-related inequalities in the burden across
17 countries exacerbated over time. (Figure 3).

18

19

20

21

DISCUSSION

CAKUT is the leading cause of CKD and kidney failure in children and adolescents, and aligns with two key UN SDGs because of its significantly impact on global health.¹¹ Previous reports had exhibited the disease burden of CKD and the relationship between SDI and CKD disease burden.^{1,14-16} Compared to earlier studies, the present report had three main findings: First, our study provided a comprehensive assessment of the global disease burden of CAKUT, including prevalence, mortality, DALYs, and its proportionate contribution to CKD. Second, we identified the association between the SDI and the disease burden. Finally, Inequality of disease burden in across SDI groups from 1990 to 2019 were significantly increased. Our investigation contributes to the call for action to improve the disease burden in low and low-middle SDI countries and territories in order to reduce the global burden of CAKUT.

Compared to previous studies which suggest a broad variation in CAKUT prevalence from different countries and territories,⁵⁻¹⁰ our study provided age-standardized prevalence, death, and DALYs rates that will facilitate comparisons across nations in different periods. The reported CAKUT prevalence in previous studies is 2.0% in preterm infants,¹⁹ which is much higher compared to our reported prevalence in 0-24 years old population (0.17%). The difference might be due to the various sample selection and different age span: For example, preterm infants have a significant higher prevalence rate of CAKUT compare to full-term infants,¹⁹ and, the prevalence in 0-4 year old is the highest among all age groups in our study as 0.4%, which is comparable with previous CAKUT prevalence reported in other full-term infants (0.04% to 1.1%).²⁰⁻²⁸ Moreover, our findings are consistent with a meta-analysis including 104 572 screen subjects, 1.6% with antenatal hydronephrosis, 0.4% with postnatal pathology confirmed CAKUT.²⁹ In our study, the prevalence is highest in younger age group, and decreased in older age group. The underlying reason might be, firstly, the mortality was in younger age group, highest during infancy, highlighting the importance of prenatal and infancy diagnosis and management for CAKUT. The high mortality rate of CAKUT during infancy was also supported by previous study ranging from 17%³⁰ to as high as 60-80% in different reports.³¹ Secondly, CAKUT is often diagnosed in infancy or early childhood. As individuals age, unless there are significant clinical symptoms necessitating medical attention, the rate of new diagnoses may decrease. Thirdly, some CAKUT cases would be resolved, cured as age grow, so the prevalence in

older age might drop.²⁹ Fourthly, the transition from pediatric to adult care systems might contributing to lower reported prevalence in older age groups, because mild cases of CAKUT might not require ongoing treatment.

By quantifying the relationship between SDI and CAKUT disease burden in children and adolescents across 204 countries, our findings highlight that low and low-middle SDI countries shoulder the majority of the disease burden. A prime example is India, contributing to nearly one-fifth of the global burden of DALY, underscoring the imperative to prioritize specific interventions in low and low-middle SDI nations to mitigate CAKUT impacts globally. Another example is among children under 1 year old, low SDI countries bearded the highest rates of prevalence, mortality and DALYs of CAKUT, whereas high SDI countries had a much lower rate compared to low SDI countries.

Increasing inequality across SDI groups in the disease burden of CAKUT was observed during the last three decades. The high and ever increasing disease burden of CAKUT in low and low-middle SDI countries and territories, such as India, Pakistan and Nigeria, is attributable to multiple challenges, including delayed diagnosis of CAKUT in infancy, insufficient resources for managing young children with CKD, and limited availability of kidney replacement therapy.^{1,14,32,33} Early detection of CAKUT relies significantly on health care resources, chiefly the ability for antenatal and postnatal ultrasound screening by expert health care personnel, which is lacking in lower SDI countries such as India and Nigeria³⁴⁻³⁸ Moreover, the deficiency of health workers and medical resources in low and low-middle SDI countries and territories like Pakistan and Nigeria may obstruct the implementation of early CAKUT detection and subsequent kidney disease management.^{32,39} Lastly, CAKUT is the leading cause of kidney failure in children and adolescents, necessitating kidney replacement therapy (KRT) for survival. The high cost and limited resources for KRT create barriers to access in low-income countries and remote regions.^{32,33,39}

1 Public health strategies and programs have significantly influenced the burden of CAKUT. For
2 example, our findings showed that high and high-middle SDI countries like Japan and Saudi Arabia
3 despite high CAKUT prevalence, have successfully reduced related mortality and DALYs during last 30
4 years. This achievement is attributed to notable budget allocations, public health plans that ensure
5 prenatal and postnatal check-ups, as well as universal access to KRT, which are commonly observed
6 in wealthy countries.^{1,40-42} Furthermore, genetic screening projects for high-risk CAKUT patients have
7 been undertaken in some prosperous nations.⁴³ However, these procedures come with relatively
8 substantial costs and can exert a significant demand on medical resources. As a middle SDI country,
9 China has achieved a remarkable reduction in CAKUT burden during the past three decades, which
10 might serve as a reference for other middle and low SDI countries. The public health strategies and
11 programs of universal antenatal ultrasound screening and a three-level prevention network
12 contributed to this success, along with high insurance coverage for early CKD diagnosis and improved
13 KRT access.^{44,45} Moreover, family planning contributes significantly to the prevention of children
14 mortality.⁴⁶ Family planning in low income countries might play a important role in reduce the strain
15 on the health care system thus reducing congenital disease burden, including CAKUT.^{46,47}

16
17 Our study qualified the correlation between SDI and disease burden of CAKUT in different age group.
18 For every 0.1 increase in SDI, there was a 0.38% rise in prevalence rate among individuals aged 0-24
19 years. One potential explanation is that in wealthier countries and territories, early detection and
20 management of CAKUT enable a portion of these patients to survive into adolescence. After 15 years
21 old, both mortality and DALYs were positively correlated with SDI. This findings might indicated that,
22 as the disease progresses in older ages, the need for KRT intensifies, which may subsequently raise
23 the DALYs in regions with higher prevalence. Kidney transplantation stands as the optimal KRT for
24 kidney failure patients to survive. Many nations prioritize children on the transplant waitlist. Yet, the
25 age cut-off for "children" varies from country to country, typically ranging from 15 to 18 years.⁴⁸⁻⁵²
26 This variation in age categorization might contribute to the observed surge in mortality and DALYs

over 15 years of age with increasing SDI. The difference in age-specific trends highlights the need for tailored health interventions in countries and territories with different SDI.

As World Kidney Day 2024 emphasizes equitable kidney health and optimal medication practices,¹³ we propose to integrate CAKUT preventive measures into SDGs, and advocate for the establishment of an International Action Target to eliminate deaths caused by CAKUT in children under five by 2030(Appendix Table 7). Achieving these goals requires improving prenatal and postnatal ultrasound screenings in primary healthcare to enable early detection and intervention, increase human resource for health, prioritizing prevention over high-cost KRT, enhancing access to KRT services.

The study has several limitations. Firstly, the definition of CAKUT varies among countries and territories.^{39,53} While CAKUT typically denotes urinary tract malformations, for the purposes of our analysis, we have utilized data on urogenital congenital anomalies from GBD dataset. This includes most of the common conditions such as bladder outlet obstruction, predominantly posterior urethral valves, and other frequently reported urinary tract malformations. Nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge the potential for selection bias in our study's findings due to the variability in the definition of CAKUT and due to the inclusion of some female genital tract malformation in the GBD dataset. Given their limited proportion,^{54,55} this does not affect the trend results of our CAKUT study. It may, to a minor extent, impact our estimates of regional differences in disease burden. Further, more accurate data will be required for cross-validation in the future. More detailed classification of disease information are needed to further estimate the disease burden in future study. Secondly, in the analyses relied on GBD models and estimates from higher-resource settings, due to limited primary data in low SDI countries and territories.¹ This may have affected trends estimates and overstate improvements in some low-SDI countries and territories. We primary focused on the prevalence, death and estimated the CAKUT burden because there is less missing data. Thirdly, GBD uses mutually exclusive causes and a single underlying cause of death for CAKUT, potentially underestimating actual burden. Subtypes of CAKUT were not analyzed due to data unavailability,

1 limiting the specificity of the analysis. As a result, we could not estimate specific disease burden of
2 every single cause of CAKUT. Similarly, a more detailed classification, distinguishing between
3 glomerular and non-glomerular causes of CKD, is necessary for in-depth analysis, especially in the
4 pediatric population. Fourthly, the GBD does not provide disease burden data for discrete age
5 groups, which restricts further study from analyzing differences between the pediatric population
6 and adolescents defined by the age threshold of 18 years. Fifthly, There is possibility that the
7 transition from pediatric to adult care systems might affect the tracking and reporting of CAKUT. The
8 prevalence in older groups might be composed of more serious cases still receiving medical attention,
9 which can affect prevalence figures. This selection bias towards more severe cases in healthcare data
10 might not accurately reflect the true distribution of CAKUT severity in the general population.

11 **CONCLUSIONS**

12 Our investigation provided a comprehensive portrayal of disease burden of CAKUT. Countries with
13 higher SDI had lower burden of CAKUT. The inequality in disease burden between countries and
14 territories with different SDI levels has widened over last thirty years. We advocate for the
15 establishment of an International Action Target to eliminate deaths caused by CAKUT in children
16 under five by 2030. Low and low-middle SDI countries and territories should promote the prenatal
17 and postnatal healthcare screening for CAKUT, increase human resource for health and enhance the
18 accessibility of KRT. In high and high-middle SDI counties, access to kidney transplantation should be
19 increased to reduce the burden of CAKUT.

20

1 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

2 The authors declare to have no compelling interests in this article.

3

4 **FUNDING**

5 The present study was supported by the grants from the Natural Science Foundation of China

6 (82273654 to YS), the Natural Science Foundation of Beijing (7222247 to YS), the National Key

7 Research and Development Program of China (2022YFC2705101to XJ), the Joint Funds of the

8 National Natural Science Foundation of China (U21A20383 to TL).

9 The funders had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis,

10 and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to

11 submit the manuscript for publication.

12

13 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

14 The authors gratefully acknowledge Prof. Konglai Zhang of the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences,

15 Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences for his invaluable contributions to manuscript revisions. We

16 also thank Dr. Jing Li and Mr. Jianhui Guo at the Institute of Child and Adolescent Health, School of

17 Public Health, Peking University for their expert advice and assistance in the statistical analysis of this

18 research.

19

20 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

21 YS, and XJ had full access to all of the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the

22 data and the accuracy of the data analysis. GH and YL are considered co-first authors. Concept and

23 design: All authors. Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: GH, YL, YS, XJ, and JD. Drafting of

1 the manuscript: GH, YL, YS, and XJ. Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual
2 content: All authors. Statistical analysis: GH, YL, and YS. Obtained funding: XJ, YS, and TL.
3 Administrative, technical, or material support: AB, CUO, FS, ZZ, WES, NX, TL, AAL, HGK, SP, and MZW.
4 Supervision: XJ, YS, and JD. All of the authors approved the final submission of the study.

5

6 **DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

7 The data utilize for the displays and calculations presented in this manuscript could be downloaded
8 at <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-results-tool>.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

1 REFERENCES

- 2 1. GBD Chronic Kidney Disease Collaboration. Global, regional, and national burden of chronic
3 kidney disease, 1990-2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *Lancet*
4 2020; **395**(10225): 709-33.
- 5 2. GBD 2019 Diseases and Injuries Collaborators. Global burden of 369 diseases and injuries in
6 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease
7 Study 2019. *Lancet* 2020; **396**(10258): 1204-22.
- 8 3. Foreman KJ, Marquez N, Dolgert A, et al. Forecasting life expectancy, years of life lost, and
9 all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 250 causes of death: reference and alternative scenarios for
10 2016-40 for 195 countries and territories. *Lancet* 2018; **392**(10159): 2052-90.
- 11 4. Chesnaye NC, Schaefer F, Bonthuis M, et al. Mortality risk disparities in children receiving
12 chronic renal replacement therapy for the treatment of end-stage renal disease across Europe: an
13 ESPN-ERA/EDTA registry analysis. *Lancet* 2017; **389**(10084): 2128-37.
- 14 5. United States Renal Data System. 2022 USRDS Annual Data Report: Epidemiology of kidney
15 disease in the United States. National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and
16 Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD.
- 17 6. Shi X, Shi Y, Zhang L, et al. Analysis of chronic kidney disease among national hospitalization
18 data with 14 million children. *BMC Nephrol* 2021; **22**(1): 195.
- 19 7. Peco-Antic A, Bogdanovic R, Paripovic D, et al. Epidemiology of chronic kidney disease in
20 children in Serbia. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 2012; **27**(5): 1978-84.
- 21 8. Kim JJ, Booth CJ, Waller S, Rasmussen P, Reid CJD, Sinha MD. The demographic
22 characteristics of children with chronic kidney disease stages 3-5 in South East England over a 5-year
23 period. *Archives of Disease in Childhood: Fetal and Neonatal Edition* 2013; **98**(3): 189-94.
- 24 9. Areses Trapote R, Sanahuja Ibáñez MJ, Navarro M. [Epidemiology of chronic kidney disease in
25 Spanish pediatric population. REPIR II Project]. *Nefrologia* 2010; **30**(5): 508-17.
- 26 10. Orr NI, McDonald SP, McTaggart S, Henning P, Craig JC. Frequency, etiology and treatment of
27 childhood end-stage kidney disease in Australia and New Zealand. *Pediatr Nephrol* 2009; **24**(9): 1719-
28 26.
- 29 11. United Nations. Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
30 Development. 2015. Available from: [https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-](https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981)
31 [agenda-sustainable-development-17981](https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981). [Last accessed on 2023-09-03].
- 32 12. Temmerman M, Khosla R, Bhutta ZA, Bustreo F. Towards a new Global Strategy for Women's,
33 Children's and Adolescents' Health. *BMJ* 2015; h4414.
- 34 13. World Kidney Day. World Kidney Day 2024 – Kidney Health for All. 2024.
35 <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/2024-campaign/2024-wkd-theme/> (accessed Sep 23 2023).
- 36 14. Feng X, Hou N, Chen Z, et al. Secular trends of epidemiologic patterns of chronic kidney
37 disease over three decades: an updated analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. *BMJ*
38 *Open* 2023; **13**(3): e064540.
- 39 15. Zhao WM, Li XL, Shi R, et al. Global, Regional, and National Burden of CKD in Children and
40 Adolescents from 1990 to 2019. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 2023.
- 41 16. Huang X, Tang J, Chen M, et al. Sex difference and risk factors in burden of urogenital
42 congenital anomalies from 1990 to 2019. *Sci Rep* 2023; **13**(1): 13656.
- 43 17. He G, Tao L, Li C, Zhong X, Wang H, Ding J. The spectrum and changes of biopsy-proven
44 kidney diseases in Chinese children. *J Nephrol* 2023; **36**(2): 417-27.
- 45 18. Modi ZJ, Waldo A, Selewski DT, Troost JP, Gipson DS. Inpatient Pediatric CKD Health Care
46 Utilization and Mortality in the United States. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2021; **77**(4): 500-8.
- 47 19. Hays T, Thompson MV, Bateman DA, et al. The Prevalence and Clinical Significance of
48 Congenital Anomalies of the Kidney and Urinary Tract in Preterm Infants. *JAMA Netw Open* 2022;
49 **5**(9): e2231626.
- 50 20. Caiulo VA, Caiulo S, Gargasole C, et al. Ultrasound mass screening for congenital anomalies of
51 the kidney and urinary tract. *Pediatr Nephrol* 2012; **27**(6): 949-53.

21. Wiesel A, Queisser-Luft A, Clementi M, Bianca S, Stoll C. Prenatal Detection of Congenital Renal Malformations by Fetal Ultrasonographic Examination: An Analysis of 709,030 Births in 12 European Countries. *European Journal of Medical Genetics* 2005; **48**(2): 131-44.
22. Tain Y-L, Luh H, Lin C-Y, Hsu C-N. Incidence and Risks of Congenital Anomalies of Kidney and Urinary Tract in Newborns: A Population-Based Case–Control Study in Taiwan. *Medicine* 2016; **95**(5).
23. Liv A-J, Finn Stener J, Jorgen T, et al. The outcome of antenatal ultrasound diagnosed anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract in a large Danish birth cohort. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 2016; **101**(9): 819.
24. Li Z-y, Chen Y-m, Qiu L-q, et al. Prevalence, types, and malformations in congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract in newborns: a retrospective hospital-based study. *Italian Journal of Pediatrics* 2019; **45**(1): 50.
25. Queiße-Luft A, Stolz G, Wiesel A, Schlaefel K, Spranger J. Malformations in newborn: results based on 30940 infants and fetuses from the Mainz congenital birth defect monitoring system (1990–1998). *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 2002; **266**(3): 163-7.
26. Loane M, Dolk H, Kelly A, et al. Paper 4: EUROCAT statistical monitoring: identification and investigation of ten year trends of congenital anomalies in Europe. *Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol* 2011; **91** Suppl 1: S31-43.
27. Dastgiri S, Stone DH, Le-Ha C, Gilmour WH. Prevalence and secular trend of congenital anomalies in Glasgow, UK. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 2002; **86**(4): 257.
28. Bondagji NS. Antenatal diagnosis, prevalence and outcome of congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract in Saudi Arabia. *Urol Ann* 2014; **6**(1): 36-40.
29. Lee RS, Cendron M, Kinnamon DD, Nguyen HT. Antenatal hydronephrosis as a predictor of postnatal outcome: a meta-analysis. *Pediatrics* 2006; **118**(2): 586-93.
30. Alsaywid B, Mohammed A, Al Ghamdi L, Banjar L. Detection of renal anomalies using antenatal and postnatal ultrasound: The consanguinity factor. *Urol Ann* 2022; **14**(3): 241-6.
31. Capone V, Persico N, Berrettini A, et al. Definition, diagnosis and management of fetal lower urinary tract obstruction: consensus of the ERKNet CAKUT-Obstructive Uropathy Work Group. *Nat Rev Urol* 2022; **19**(5): 295-303.
32. Amanullah F, Malik AA, Zaidi Z. Chronic kidney disease causes and outcomes in children: Perspective from a LMIC setting. *PLoS One* 2022; **17**(6): e0269632.
33. Jafar TH, Ramakrishnan C, John O, et al. Access to CKD Care in Rural Communities of India: a qualitative study exploring the barriers and potential facilitators. *BMC Nephrol* 2020; **21**(1): 26.
34. Kalra S, Biswas A, Bose T, Mandal R, Kapoor T. A snapshot of children with congenital anomalies of the kidneys and urinary tract at three tertiary care centers of the armed forces. *Journal of Marine Medical Society* 2020; **22**(2).
35. Chaurasiya SK, Singh NP, Shukla SK, Bajpai PK, Mathew DJ. Assessment of the services of ASHA workers on antenatal and postnatal care in a district of western Uttar Pradesh, India. *J Family Med Prim Care* 2020; **9**(7): 3502-7.
36. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and ICF. . National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 2019-21: India: Volume II. Mumbai: IIPS.
37. Akinmoladun JA, Ogbole GI, Lawal TA, Adesina OA. Routine prenatal ultrasound anomaly screening program in a Nigerian university hospital: Redefining obstetrics practice in a developing African country. *Niger Med J* 2015; **56**(4): 263-7.
38. Tsuchiya M, Hayashida M, Yanagihara T, et al. Ultrasound screening for renal and urinary tract anomalies in healthy infants. *Pediatr Int* 2003; **45**(5): 617-23.
39. Harada R, Hamasaki Y, Okuda Y, Hamada R, Ishikura K. Epidemiology of pediatric chronic kidney disease/kidney failure: learning from registries and cohort studies. *Pediatr Nephrol* 2022; **37**(6): 1215-29.
40. Collaborators GBDSA. The burden of disease in Saudi Arabia 1990-2017: results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. *Lancet Planet Health* 2020; **4**(5): e195-e208.
41. Wühl E, van Stralen KJ, Verrina E, et al. Timing and outcome of renal replacement therapy in patients with congenital malformations of the kidney and urinary tract. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol* 2013; **8**(1): 67-74.

- 1 42. Sanderson KR, Shih WV, Warady BA, Claes DJ. Severe Fetal CAKUT (Congenital Anomalies of
2 the Kidneys and Urinary Tract), Prenatal Consultations, and Initiation of Neonatal Dialysis. *Am J*
3 *Perinatol* 2022.
- 4 43. Manoharan A, Krishnamurthy S, Sivamurukan P, Ananthakrishnan R, Jindal B. Screening for
5 Renal and Urinary Tract Anomalies in Asymptomatic First Degree Relatives of Children with
6 Congenital Anomalies of the Kidney and Urinary Tract (CAKUT). *Indian J Pediatr* 2020; **87**(9): 686-91.
- 7 44. Gong Y, Xu H, Li Y, et al. Exploration of postnatal integrated management for prenatal renal
8 and urinary tract anomalies in China. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med* 2021; **34**(3): 360-5.
- 9 45. He G, Li C, Wang S, Wang H, Ding J. Association of insurance status with chronic kidney
10 disease stage at diagnosis in children. *Pediatr Nephrol* 2022; **37**(11): 2705-14.
- 11 46. Chola L, McGee S, Tugendhaft A, Buchmann E, Hofman K. Scaling Up Family Planning to
12 Reduce Maternal and Child Mortality: The Potential Costs and Benefits of Modern Contraceptive Use
13 in South Africa. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**(6): e0130077.
- 14 47. Prata N. Making family planning accessible in resource-poor settings. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond*
15 *B Biol Sci* 2009; **364**(1532): 3093-9.
- 16 48. Jackson KR, Zhou S, Ruck J, et al. Pediatric deceased donor kidney transplant outcomes under
17 the Kidney Allocation System. *Am J Transplant* 2019; **19**(11): 3079-86.
- 18 49. Engen RM, Smith JM, Bartosh SM. The kidney allocation system and pediatric transplantation
19 at 5 years. *Pediatric Transplantation* 2022; **26**(7): e14369.
- 20 50. OPTN. Kidney allocation system - OPTN. Dec, 2019.
21 <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/professionals/by-organ/kidney-pancreas/kidney-allocation-system/>
22 (accessed Aug 20, 2023). 2019.
- 23 51. Zhang Z, Liu Z, Shi B. Global Perspective on Kidney Transplantation: China. *Kidney360* 2022;
24 **3**(2): 364-7.
- 25 52. Harambat J, van Stralen KJ, Schaefer F, et al. Disparities in policies, practices and rates of
26 pediatric kidney transplantation in Europe. *Am J Transplant* 2013; **13**(8): 2066-74.
- 27 53. Woolf AS. The term CAKUT has outlived its usefulness: the case for the prosecution. *Pediatr*
28 *Nephrol* 2022; **37**(11): 2785-91.
- 29 54. Saravelos SH, Cocksedge KA, Li TC. Prevalence and diagnosis of congenital uterine anomalies
30 in women with reproductive failure: a critical appraisal. *Hum Reprod Update* 2008; **14**(5): 415-29.
- 31 55. Mikos T, Gordts S, Grimbizis GF. Current knowledge about the management of congenital
32 cervical malformations: a literature review. *Fertil Steril* 2020; **113**(4): 723-32.
- 33

34 **Table 1 The global age-standardized rate per 100,000 of prevalence, mortality and DALYs for CAKUT among 0-24years in 1990 and 2019, and AAPC 1990-**
 35 **2019**

36

Variables		Prevalence			Mortality		DALYs		
	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 1990, n (95% CI)	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 2019, n (95% CI)	AAPC between 1990 and 2019, % (95% CI)	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 1990 (95% CI)	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 2019 (95% CI)	AAPC between 1990 and 2019 (95% CI)	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 1990 (95% CI)	Age-standardized rate per 100 000 in 2019 (95% CI)	AAPC between 1990 and 2019 (95% CI)
Global	165.19 (165.04, 165.34)	167.11 (166.97, 167.25)	0.03 (-0.01, 0.07)	0.45 (0.45, 0.46)	0.30 (0.29, 0.30)	-1.26 (-1.35, -1.17)	45.73 (45.66, 45.81)	32.22 (32.16, 32.29)	-1.07 (-1.14, -1.00)
Male	159.77 (159.56, 159.97)	162.40 (162.21, 162.60)	0.09 (0.05, 0.14)	0.54 (0.53, 0.55)	0.36 (0.35, 0.37)	-1.13 (-1.24, -1.03)	53.26 (53.15, 53.37)	37.80 (37.71, 37.89)	-0.98 (-1.07, -0.88)
Female	170.89 (170.68, 171.11)	172.11 (171.90, 172.32)	-0.03 (-0.08, 0.02)	0.36 (0.36, 0.37)	0.23 (0.23, 0.24)	-1.47 (-1.54, -1.40)	37.72 (37.63, 37.82)	26.26 (26.18, 26.34)	-1.20 (-1.24, -1.16)
0-4 year	396.50 (294.57, 520.57)	402.28 (299.53, 527.67)	0.05 (-0.01, 0.12)	2.19 (1.25, 3.52)	1.36 (0.97, 1.85)	-1.39 (-1.50, -1.27)	207.52 (123.32, 325.47)	134.79 (98.65, 178.58)	-1.27 (-1.37, -1.17)
5-9 year	164.82 (124.05, 205.59)	165.04 (123.76, 206.32)	-0.02 (-0.07, 0.03)	0.04 (0.02, 0.06)	0.02 (0.02, 0.02)	-1.90 (-1.99, -1.81)	8.79 (5.97, 13.11)	7.62 (5.07, 11.75)	-0.54 (-0.60, -0.48)

	215-51)	217-54)	0-03)		0-03)	-1-81)		-0-47)	
10-14 year		108-33 (79-55,	-0-03 (-0-06, -		0-02 (0-01,	-1-03 (-1-09,		5-32 (3-52, 7-88)	-0-29 (-0-32,
	108-18 (79-91, 140-39)	141-27)	0-00)	0-02 (0-02, 0-03)	0-02)	-0-98)	5-74 (3-93, 8-34)		-0-26)
15-19 year		80-00 (58-10,	0-00 (-0-03, 0-03)		0-02 (0-01,	-0-17 (-0-27,		4-15 (2-70, 6-18)	-0-01 (-0-06,
	79-80 (58-39, 105-30)	105-92)		0-02 (0-01, 0-02)	0-02)	-0-07)	4-21 (2-81, 6-24)		0-03)
20-24 year		62-44 (45-27,	0-06 (-0-02, 0-15)		0-02 (0-01,	0-59 (0-51,		3-56 (2-30, 5-23)	0-26 (0-20,
	62-49 (45-40, 83-45)	83-64)		0-02 (0-01, 0-02)	0-02)	0-67)	3-39 (2-23, 5-00)		0-32)
High SDI	177-89 (177-40,	156-28 (155-81,	-0-63 (-0-74, -		0-21 (0-19,	-2-34 (-2-42,	44-86 (44-61, 45-11)	24-28 (24-09, 24-47)	-2-03 (-2-08,
	178-38)	156-76)	0-51)	0-43 (0-41, 0-46)	0-23)	-2-26)			-1-98)
High- middle SDI	171-18 (170-82,	163-36 (162-97,	-0-09 (-0-17, -		0-20 (0-19,	-2-68 (-2-78,	44-32 (44-13, 44-50)	23-35 (23-20, 23-50)	-2-21 (-2-29,
	171-54)	163-76)	0-01)	0-43 (0-42, 0-45)	0-22)	-2-58)			-2-12)
Middle SDI	152-72 (152-48,	160-04 (159-78,	0-10 (0-02, 0-18)		0-24 (0-23,	-1-82 (-1-99,	43-78 (43-65, 43-91)	26-98 (26-87, 27-09)	-1-53 (-1-66,
	152-97)	160-31)		0-44 (0-43, 0-45)	0-26)	-1-64)			-1-40)
Low- middle SDI	170-72 (170-42,	178-57 (178-28,	0-16 (0-11, 0-20)		0-34 (0-32,	-0-94 (-1-04,	48-33 (48-18, 48-48)	36-19 (36-06, 36-32)	-0-77 (-0-86,
	171-02)	178-85)		0-48 (0-46, 0-49)	0-35)	-0-83)			-0-69)
Low SDI	165-35 (164-94,	168-04 (167-75,	0-11 (0-06, 0-16)		0-38 (0-37,	-0-48 (-0-56,	46-88 (46-69, 47-07)	39-66 (39-53, 39-80)	-0-40 (-0-47,
	165-75)	168-33)		0-47 (0-45, 0-48)	0-40)	-0-40)			-0-33)

37

38 DALYs= Disability-adjusted life years, SDI= Socio-demographic Index, CAKUT= Congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary Tract, CI=confidence interval.

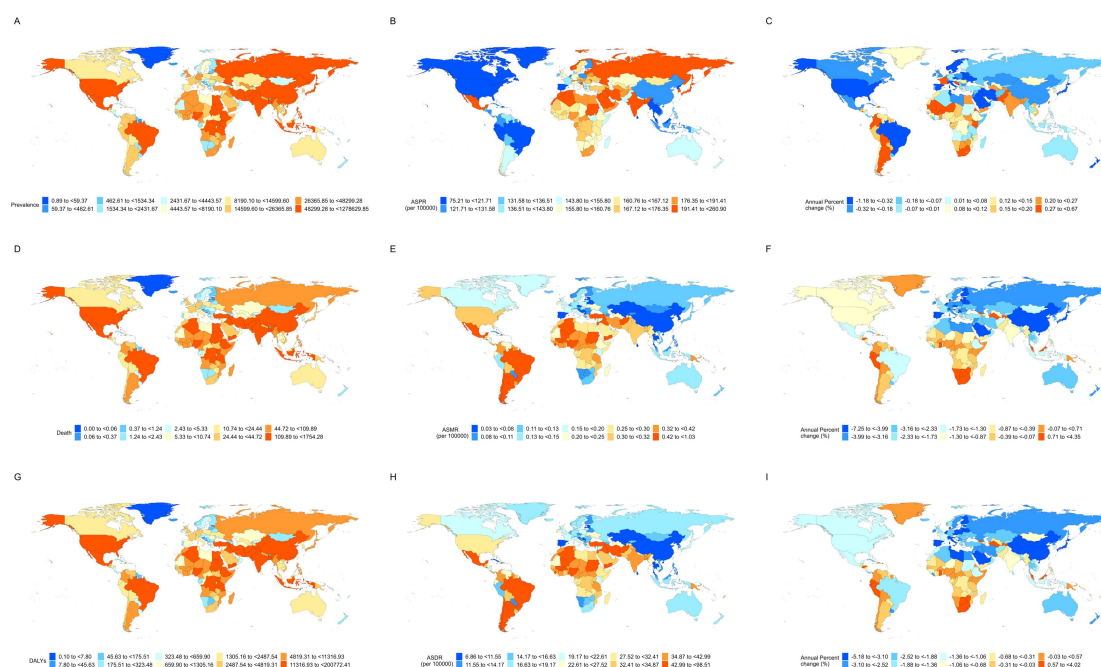
39 **Table 2 Association between age-standardized prevalence, mortality, DALYs rate of CAKUT and every 0.1 increased of SDI**

Subgroup	Prevalence (%)	Death (%)	DALY (%)
Global	0.38	-20.53	-16.31
Male	0.01	-20.43	-16.97
Female	0.72	-20.00	-14.95
neonatal	-1.44	-17.51	-17.40
1 month-11 months	-1.10	-28.65	-24.47
1-4 years	-0.20	-32.27	-14.83
5-9 years	0.77	-15.24	-4.09
10-14years	1.28	-8.50	-1.71
15-19 years	1.61	4.33	2.51
20-24 years	1.88	5.94	3.11

40 DALYs= Disability-adjusted life years, SDI= Socio-demographic Index, CAKUT= Congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary Tract. Age-standardized rate was
 41 used for Global and Male/Female subgroups, while crude rate was used for the remains.

ORIGINAL UNEDITED MANUSCRIPT

1



2

3 **Figure 1 The numbers, ASPR and ASDR in 2019 and estimated annual percentage changes of rates during**
 4 **1990-2019 for CAKUT in 204 countries and territories**

5 (A) Numbers of prevalence for CAKUT in 2019

6 (B) ASPRs for CAKUT in 2019

7 (C) Estimated annual percentage changes of ASPRs from 1990 to 2019

8 (D) Numbers of Death for CAKUT in 2019

9 (E) ASMRs for CAKUT in 2019

10 (F) Estimated annual percentage changes of ASMRs from 1990 to 2019

11 (G) Numbers of DALYs for CAKUT in 2019

12 (H) ASDRs for CAKUT in 2019

13 (I) Estimated annual percentage changes of ASDRs from 1990 to 2019

14

15 DALY= Disability-adjusted life year, CAKUT= Congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary Tract, ASDR= age-
 16 standardized DALYs rate, ASPR= age-standardized prevalence rate.

17

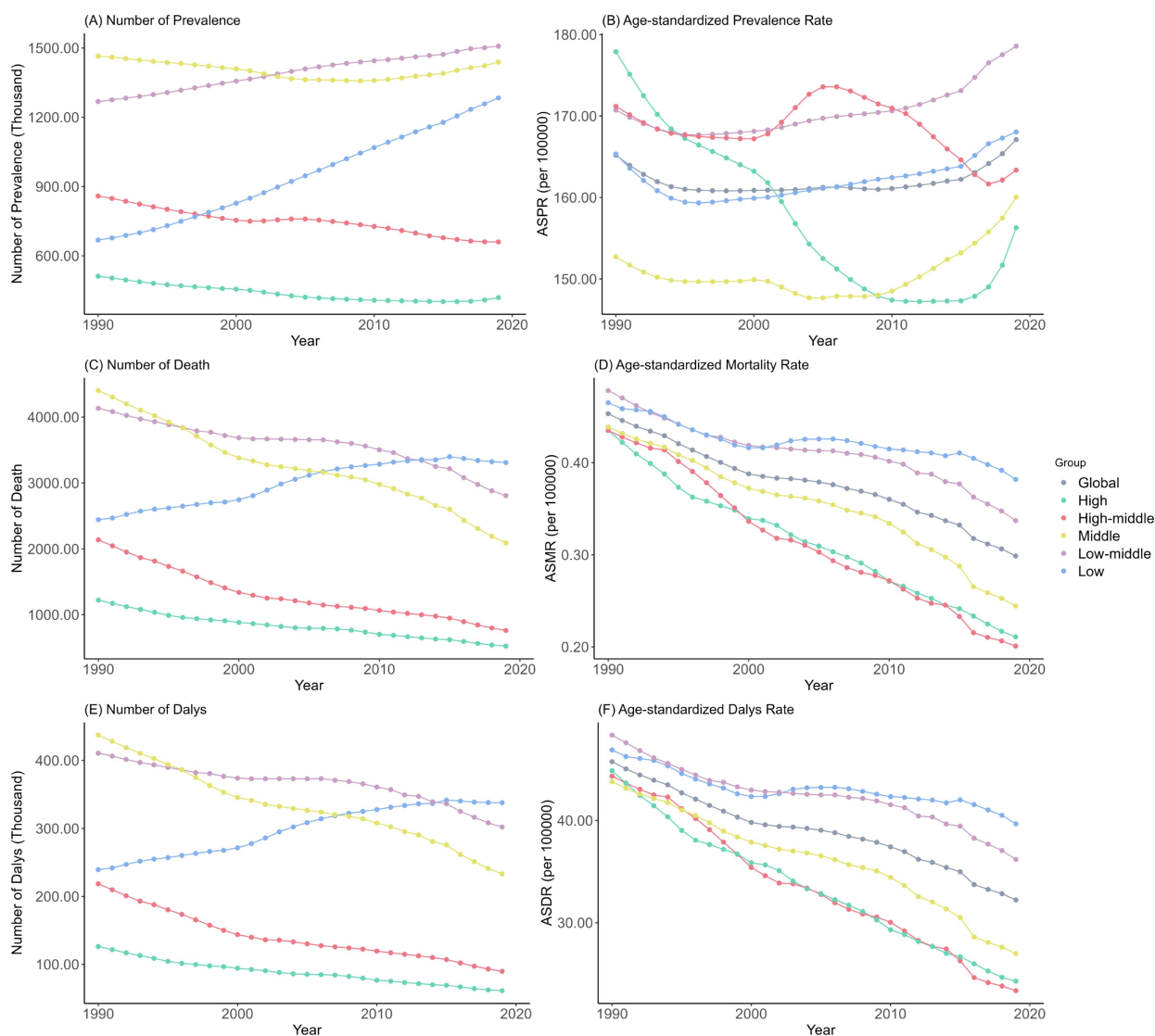
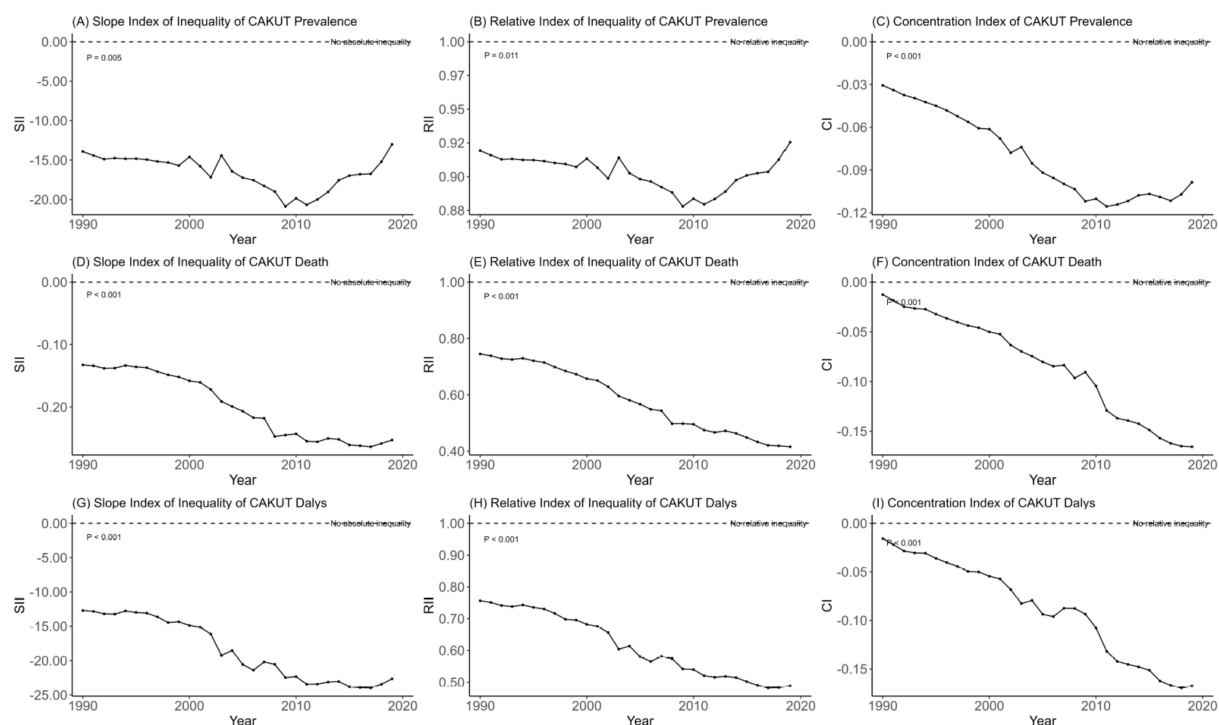


Figure 2 Trends of Prevalence(A), ASPR(B), Death(C) ASMR(D), DALY(E) and ASDR(F)of CAKUT by SDI quintiles,1990-2019

ASPR= age-standardized prevalence rate, ASMR= age-standardized mortality rate, DALYs= Disability-adjusted life years, ASDR= age-standardized DALYs rate, SDI= Socio-demographic Index, CAKUT= Congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary Tract.

1



2

3 **Figure 3 Trend for inequality during 1990-2019 for CAKUT in 204 countries and territories**

4 DALYs= Disability-adjusted life years, SDI= Socio-demographic Index, CAKUT= Congenital anomalies of the
 5 kidney and urinary Tract, ASDR= age-standardized DALYs rate, ASPR= age-standardized prevalence rate.

6