Subject: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear Professor Allebeck,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of my co-authors and myself regarding our recently published article in the European Journal of Public Health, titled "Area-level excess mortality in times of COVID-19 in Switzerland: geographical, socioeconomic and political determinants" published on 24 January 2024 with DOI 10.1093/eurpub/ckad230.

Upon further review of our article, we have identified an error in the calculation of the expected mortality in 2020. Specifically, in our initial submission the expected mortality was taken for the period between February 24th, 2020 (the date of the first reported COVID-19 case in Switzerland) and December 31st, 2020 and not for the entire year. This omission of almost 2 months resulted in an underestimation of the expected number of deaths in the country for 2020, with an initially reported median expected of 55,676 instead of 65,201. This important error did not however concern the main message of our paper, which is about comparing excess mortality across municipalities, and not about the actual magnitude of excess. We ran the entire analyses again with the corrected expected mortality and obtained essentially the same results, with some changes in numbers that have been corrected in the attached files.

We deeply regret this oversight and wish to submit a correction to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the published work. Attached to this email, you will find the revised manuscript, figure and supplementary. We kindly request that this correction be published in the European Journal of Public Health at your earliest convenience. Please let us know if there are additional steps or documentation required to facilitate this process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We greatly appreciate your assistance and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further clarification or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julien Riou

Département Epidémiologie et systèmes de santé

Route de la Corniche 10 | Bureau BIO 02/01/151

CH-1010 Lausanne

T : +41 21 314 73 75

julien.riou@unisante.ch