

Prof. Jamie Pearce,  
Editor-in-Chief,  
*Health & Place*

August 26, 2020

Dear Prof. Pearce,

We wish to submit an original research article entitled ***Reducing socioeconomic inequalities in access to and participation in community-based running and walking activities: a longitudinal ecological study of parkrun events 2010 to 2019*** for consideration by *Health and Place*.

We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we show that areas with high levels of deprivation have had consistently and starkly lower rates of participation in parkrun (a community-based physical activity event) over the last decade, despite enjoying relatively better geographic access to events.

This is important because significant financial investment is being undertaken to level up participation in physical activity events like parkrun across the socioeconomic spectrum. For example, in 2018 Sport England committed £3m for the creation of 200 new parkrun events in England. Our findings show that simply creating new events is unlikely to achieve this aim, and that alternative strategies need to be developed to engage with those living in high deprivation areas.

As keen proponents of Open Science, all of the data and code is made publicly available so that this study can be replicated and built upon by others.

Thank you for consideration of this manuscript.

Lead author