

February 21, 2018

Trish Groves
Editor in chief,
BMJ Open

Dear Trish Groves,

We are pleased to submit our paper entitled “**Inequalities in lifespan in Mexico, 1990-2015: deterioration in adult survival**” for consideration as **Research Article** in *BMJ Open*.

In this manuscript we quantify the effect of mortality amenable to medical service and other public health policies on the survival of the Mexican population at the state level and on prevailing health inequalities in the country over the last 25 years.

We show that Mexico has succeeded in reducing mortality and between-state inequalities in children. However, the adult population is becoming vulnerable since they have not been able to reduce the burden of medically amenable causes of death and behavior-related mortality. We show that increases in homicide mortality after 2005 have had detrimental consequences for the health status of young adults and lead to increased disparities between states. It is clear that the resurgence of violent deaths has created a new burden in Mexican society in particular states. For example, two of the most dangerous cities in the world are located in the southern state of Guerrero. Also strikingly, the older adult population shows nationwide deterioration in their health status and the largest inequalities between states. At the heart of this deterioration are the effects of diabetes, ischemic heart diseases and cirrhosis, albeit with large regional variation. To put this in perspective, the older male adult population could add more than one year of life in every state of the country in 2015 if they were to achieve the mortality levels of a low mortality benchmark. These findings have significance for how public policies were implemented in Mexico and their effects on the wellbeing of the population. As many developing countries, Mexico will have to face the new challenges with a broad strategy, which should include interventions that reduce health inequalities in all age groups.

Our manuscript represents unique and original material and it is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We hope you will find our paper of interest to *BMJ Open*'s readers and we hope you see our paper as fitting in *BMJ Open*'s rich history of publishing serious explorations of international health, health care, and policy. We look forward to your response.

As possible reviewers we propose Dr. Douglas Dockery from Harvard School of public Health (ddockery@hsph.harvard.edu), Dr. Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez (beltrans@ucla.edu) from UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; and Dr. Bernardo Lanza Queiroz (lanza@cedeplar.ufmg.br) from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - CEDEPLAR - Department of Demography.

The three authors have contributed to the writing of the manuscript and have no conflict of interest, financial or others.

Sincerely,

José Manuel Aburto
Tim Riffe
Vladimir Canudas-Romo