

May 25, 2017

Natalie Parfitis
Senior editor,
BMC Public Health

Dear Natalie Parfitis,

We are pleased to submit our paper entitled “**Lifespan inequalities among Mexican states, 1990-2015: deterioration in adult survival**” for consideration as **Research Article** in *BMC Public Health*.

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 *BMC Public Health*’s readers and we hope you see our paper as fitting in *BMC Public Health*’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. Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez (beltrans@ucla.edu) from UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; Dr. Rosario Cárdenas Elizalde (carde@correo.xoc.uam.mx) from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco; and Rafael Lozano (rafael.lozano@insp.mx) from the National Public Health Institute in Mexico.

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