

June 20, 2020

Fiona Godlee
Editor-in-Chief,
BMJ

Dear Audrey Ceschia,

We are pleased to submit our paper entitled “**The uneven state-distribution of homicides in Brazil and their effect on life expectancy, 2000-15**” for consideration as **original research article** to the *BMJ*.

In this manuscript we assess the impact of homicide mortality and causes of death amenable to medical service on life expectancy changes in the new century in Brazil. Using a powerful methodology, we were able to obtain reliable estimates for life expectancy at the state level in the country in a period in which an anti-gun campaign was implemented.

We show that despite increases to life expectancy in almost all states over this period, homicide mortality contributed, to varying degrees, to either attenuate life expectancy gains, or in some cases to reverse gains in life expectancy. This effect was particularly strong in Brazil’s Northern regions and was restricted to men. Causes of death associated to medical services and those sensitive to public health policies and health behaviors had positive contributions to increases in life expectancy at birth in the period 2000-2015. However, homicide mortality opposes this increase by over half a year in 12 states of Brazil. These findings have significance to how public policies were implemented in Brazil and their effects on the wellbeing of the population. The rise in homicide mortality in the twenty-first century in Brazil must be approached from a public health perspective to further increase life expectancy in all regions of the country.

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*’s readers and we hope you see our paper as fitting in *BMJ*’s rich history of publishing serious explorations of international health, health care and policy. We look forward to receiving your response

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

Sincerely,

José Manuel Aburto
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Bernardo L. Queiroz
Shammi Luhar
Vladimir Canudas-Romo