



University of Oxford
Leverhulme Centre for Demographic Science
42 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JD
Telephone: +44(1) 1865 281740 (secretary)

Dear Prof. Alfredo Morabia,

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 *American Journal of Public Health*.

1) A description of what the paper adds to current knowledge, in particular with respect to material previously published in AJPH, and if systematic reviews exist on the topic.

There is extensive literature in AJPH on the public health impacts of homicides and violent deaths in the US and more recently an article I led about Mexico; however, little is known of the public health significance of raising homicides in other Latin American countries such as Brazil. 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.

2) The public health importance of the paper.

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.

(3) One sentence summarizing the main message(s) of the paper, which may be used to disseminate the paper on social media.

There is an urgent need for comprehensive strategies to mitigate the impact of homicides on Brazilians' population health; new policies cannot continue to be dismissive of the extensive evidence documenting negative health impacts of the increased violence on the population.

We hope you will find our paper of interest *AJPH's* readers and we hope you see our paper as fitting in *AJPH's* rich history of publishing serious explorations of epidemiological surveillance, health inequalities, consequences of violence, and public health policy. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely, José Manuel Aburto