

January 5, 2018

Dear Author:

The review of your revised submission to *Demography* (MS# 2017-407) "Lifespan dispersion in times of life expectancy fluctuations: The case of Central and Eastern Europe" is now complete. Based on the reports and recommendations of three referees and the Deputy Editor assigned to your manuscript, we have decided to offer an opportunity to **revise and resubmit** for possible publication in *Demography*. If you do revise and resubmit your manuscript, it may be sent back to the original reviewers and possibly a new reviewer.

Detailed "Comments to the Author(s)" prepared by the referees are attached. A brief summary follows.

We received a useful set of reviews that we believe can help you revise and improve the manuscript. The general directive is to provide the clarifications, corrections, explanations, and some possible re-analyses requested. R1 scored the manuscript low on theoretical contribution and adequacy of the evidence. Among other issues, they report several concerns: the inclusion of infant mortality, the overestimated role of alcohol, and the lack of a broader discussion on the added value of the lifespan indicators. R2 would like the more interesting and important results to be highlighted and/or summarized as well as consideration given to looking at subgroupings of countries. Among other comments, R3 asks the authors to consider including cause-specific data from WHO, which would strengthen the analysis further. Please consider following this suggestion.

If you do decide to revise and resubmit your manuscript, we ask that you send us a revised version of the paper, together with a memo detailing the changes that you have made in response to the reviews. In that memo, include a point-by-point description of how you have addressed the comments and suggestions made by the referees. It is possible that you will disagree with some of those comments, or choose to not follow a specific recommendation. If so, please explain why.

Please submit a revised version of your paper within six months. Papers submitted to *Demography* should have no more than 8,000 words (including the abstract and notes, but excluding references) and no more than 10 total tables and figures. The revised manuscript, in PDF format, and the response from authors should be submitted online using our electronic submission process. The URL is <http://editorialexpress.com/demography>.

*Please make sure not to include any identifying information in the revised manuscript or response to editors and referees.*

If you have any questions about the submission process please contact Jack Byerly, Editorial Assistant, at [demography@psu.edu](mailto:demography@psu.edu). For detailed information regarding the preparation of

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manuscripts for *Demography*, including information on matters of style, visit Springer's *Demography* website at: [www.springer.com/13524](http://www.springer.com/13524). Click on "Instructions for Authors" on the menu in the right hand column.

Thank you very much for submitting your paper to *Demography*.

Sincerely,

Stephen Matthews

John Iceland

Jennifer Van Hook

Handwritten signatures of the three authors: Stephen A. Matthews, John Iceland, and Jennifer Van Hook.