Author's response to reviews


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Changes in the manuscript implemented upon reviewers comments:

1. Conclusions in an Abstract and Discussion were changed, to be drawn only on material presented in the paper.
2. The number of joinpoints was not pre-fixed in the modeling, however, the maximum of joinponts allowed was limited to 3.
3. The name of the software used for analysis was included into the text and references.
4. We have decided not to change Table 2 as suggested by the reviewer. The reason was, that this table has double purpose - one is to present trends estimated in the joinpoint analysis, and the second one to present recent differences between Ohio and the US, as well as between White and Black populations.
5. Figure 2 was made once again according to reviewers' suggestions.
6. The Discussion section was rewritten and reedited to follow reviewer's indications. The discussion was also shortened.