Author’s response to reviews

Title: Socioeconomic inequalities in risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in low-income and middle-income countries

Authors:

Ahmad Reza Hosseinpoor (hosseinpoora@who.int)
Nicole Bergen (nicolejbergen@gmail.com)
Anton Kunst (A.Kunst@amc.uva.nl)
Sam Harper (sam.harper@mcgill.ca)
Regina Guthold (gutholdr@who.int)
Dag Rekve (RekveD@who.int)
Edouard Tursan d’Espaignet (tursandespaignet@who.int)
Nirmala Naidoo (naidoon@who.int)
Somnath Chatterji (chatterjis@who.int)

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Dear Editorial team,

We would like to submit our manuscript “Socioeconomic inequalities in risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in low-income and middle-income countries” for publication as a research article in the *BMC Public Health*.

In this study, we quantified and compared wealth- and education-based inequalities in noncommunicable disease risk factor prevalence in a large sample of low- and middle income countries. Segregated by sex and country-income group, our results offer important insight into the socioeconomic patterning of the four leading noncommunicable disease risk factors: tobacco use, low fruit and vegetable consumption, physical inactivity, and heavy alcohol drinking. We found current daily smoking and low fruit and vegetable consumption to be unequally distributed to the detriment of those with lower wealth or education levels.

This manuscript is of upmost interest and relevance to the broad readership of the *BMC Public Health*. A comprehensive understanding of the socioeconomic distribution of noncommunicable disease risk factors has been identified as an important precursor to planning effective interventions. Our findings will help to raise awareness among many sectors of the medical and public health professions of the role of socioeconomic inequalities in noncommunicable disease risk factors, encouraging a concerted approach to reduce such disparities. The implications of this study are particularly timely, as the international community begins to shift its focus in the developing world from infectious disease towards noncommunicable diseases. As noncommunicable diseases gain momentum as a public health priority in low- and middle-income countries, a better understanding of the contributing health risk factors underlies effective prevention and management responses.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Ahmad Reza Hosseinpour, MD PhD
Epidemiologist
Department of Health Statistics and Informatics
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Tel. direct: +41 22 791 3205
Fax direct: +41 22 791 1584
E-mail: hosseinpoora@who.int