Author's response to reviews

Title: Immigrant enclaves and risk of diabetes: a prospective study

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Dr. Natalie Pafitis, Executive Editor, BMC Public Health

Dr. Pafitis:

This is to submit the enclosed manuscript “Immigrant enclaves and risk of diabetes: a prospective study” for consideration by BMC Public Health.

Although America is often conceptualized as a “melting pot” of different nationalities, in the past 20 years Sweden has experienced an influx of immigration, with immigrants constituting 1 in 5 current residents (as compared to approximately 1 in 10 in the US). This makes Sweden an ideal setting to examine the role of determinants of immigrant health in the modern area. Using a sample of 887,603 adults drawn from the three largest urban areas of Sweden, this study prospectively examines whether living in an immigrant enclave is associated with risk of diabetes mellitus. We use Geographic Information Systems methods to empirically identify immigrant enclaves, and examine risk of diabetes using a multi-level modeling approach.

Residential segregation has been investigated as a risk factor for numerous health outcomes, and results are mixed as to whether neighborhood racial/ethnic composition is associated with health. We find that living in an immigrant enclave is not associated with diabetes risk among immigrants, but is associated with elevated risk of diabetes among native Swedes. These findings have important implications for understanding how context influences immigrant health, particularly for racial/ethnic minority immigrants.

This manuscript has not been submitted to any other journal. The authors have no conflicts of interest to report and have complied with the American Public Health Association’s Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health.

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Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

A revision of the manuscript has been submitted that includes line numbers. Additionally, the Results heading has been changed to “Results and Discussion.”

Best,

Briana Mezuk