Author's response to reviews

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

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Version: 3
Date: 9 September 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
September 9, 2014

Dr. Pafitis:

We are thankful for the opportunity to revise this manuscript “Immigrant enclaves and risk of diabetes: a prospective study” (1763750451273664) for BMC Public Health. We have responded to each of the reviewer comments specifically below and changed the manuscript where noted. We hope that with these revisions you will find this manuscript acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,

Briana Mezuk

Reviewer #1

1. It would be helpful if the author’s provide more detail regarding the calculation of the cumulative incidence for diabetes mellitus.

   We have added this to the Analysis section of the Methods, reprinted here: “Cumulative incidence was calculated as the proportion of the population that developed diabetes over the 5-year follow-up period; individuals with prevalent diabetes at baseline were excluded from the analysis, so these cases all represent new-onset diabetes.”

2. The author’s include non-Iraqi immigrants as a population group of interest in the analysis. However, the author’s do not provide enough descriptive information about the non-Iraqi immigrants. The author’s should describe who is in this population and their composition in the Swedish population.

   We have added this to the Methods, reprinted below: “The 10 most common non-Iraqi immigrant groups represented in this analyses migrated to Sweden from Finland (25%), countries in Asia (other than Turkey, Iran or Iraq) (10.9%), countries in Africa (8.5%), Yugoslavia (7.2%), Iran (6.4%), Poland (5.0%), Turkey (4.0%), Bosnia (3.8%), Chile (2.7%) and countries in South America other than Chile (2.7%).”

3. In the last paragraph of the introduction the author’s make the case for the emphasis on Iraqi immigrants. This paragraph does not flow very well with the introduction. The author’s should consider including the two points (lines 110-114) in the preceding paragraph.

   We have combined these two paragraphs and edited the language to improve the flow with the rest of the introduction, as requested.
Reviewer #2

1. Formulating a hypothesis would be helpful.

   The relationship between neighborhood ethnic composition and health is complex and is inconsistent across studies, as well as across ethnic subgroups within the same study (lines 91 – 102 in the Introduction). Because this is the first study, to our knowledge, to examine this relationship among Iraqi immigrants we did not feel that there was sufficiently strong prior evidence to state a directional hypothesis. Instead, as we state in the last sentence of the Introduction, the aim of this study was to “assess whether living in an ethnic enclave is associated with risk of DM among first and second-generation immigrants and native Swedes.” From this statement, the implied null hypothesis being tested is that there is no relationship between neighborhood ethnic composition and diabetes risk.

2. Description of “non-Iraqi immigrant population” should be provided.

   We have done this, as requested. See our response to Reviewer #1.

3. Line 150 – replace “on” with “of”

   We have made this change, as requested.

4. Line 188 – omit “the”

   We have made this change, as requested.

5. Line 300 – reference should be provided

   We have added a citation, as requested.