Author’s response to reviews

Title: Indirect impact of violent events on Emergency Department utilization and disease patterns

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to Reviewers

We thank the reviewers for taking the time to read through our manuscript and offer their input. Below is a point by point response to their comments with a description of how we have tried to address their comments.

Editor Comments:

1 - We note the change in authorship since original submission of the manuscript. In line with COPE guidelines, BioMed Central requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts. We would therefore need to ask that all authors complete our change of author form, which can be downloaded from: https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5

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If the need for ethics approval were waived, then please clearly state this, including the name of the ethics committee that provided the exemption, together with the reasons for the waiver, or a reference to the relevant legislation.

The study was deemed exempt from human subject research by the Institutional Review Board of the American University of Beirut, under the protocol number [FHS.CM.01] (page 12, line 302).

4 - For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 16) and a statement to this effect should appear in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations including whether the consent was written. When reporting on such studies, individual patient data should not be made available unless consent for publication has also been obtained.

If the need for informed consent has been waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this with details, including the name of the Board or a reference to the relevant legislation in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations.

The need for informed consent is deemed unnecessary as our study was deemed exempt from human subject research by the Institutional Review Board of the American University of Beirut, under the protocol number [FHS.CM.01].

5 - If you wish to acknowledge someone by their name in the Acknowledgements, please ensure you have obtained permission from them to so do.

Authors would like to recognize Dr. Hani Tamim for his technical support with the time series analysis. We have obtained his permission to do so.

6 - At this stage, please upload your proofread manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethrough or text in different colours. All relevant tables and figures should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.
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