

17-May-2021

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Changes in U.S. Life Expectancy in the Wake of COVID-19: Differences by Race/Ethnicity and Relative to Other High-Income Countries

Dear Dr. Woolf

Thank you for sending your excellent and thorough revision. The additional data in figure 1 is a nice addition. As such, I think we are quite close with only a few more minor comments and requests.

I hope very much that you will be willing and able to revise your paper as explained below.

When you return your revised manuscript, please note that The BMJ requires an ORCID ID for corresponding authors of all research articles. If you do not have an ORCID ID, registration is free and takes a matter of seconds.

I am looking forward to reading the revised version and reaching a decision.

Yours sincerely,
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Research Editor
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To start your revision, please click this link or log in to your account: *** PLEASE NOTE: This is a two-step process. After clicking on the link, you will be directed to a webpage to confirm. ***

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Decision: Put points

Additional comments and queries:

* Is it possible for you to include information on the diversity of each country, even in the supplement, to make sure the context is understood here. Specifically i am referring to the table of OECD diversity index values.

* Taiwan is not an independent nation and the UK and US do not recognize it as such. Please make sure that Taiwan is appropriately referred to here.

* Regarding your conclusion and the use of the term systemic racism. The problem here is not the term systemic racism or its impact on social and health inequality--surely systemic racism's impacts are without doubt. Further, while it is easy to blame the previous president of the US, he alone cannot claim all credit since as you note this is multigenerational. Thus, since the results of this paper are not suggestive of a direct cause but instead are an analysis of the end product (decrease life expectancy and greater drops for racial and ethnic minorities) the conclusion should be tempered somewhat. So should say instead something along the lines of, "continued inequitable impacts on people of color are likely the products of longstanding policy choices and systemic racism." Alternative wording is appropriate if you prefer.

* Last, please move the Patient and public statement to the end of the methods section and please list barriers to including patients if you can. Also, please keep the dissemination statement in the endmatter, but please describe more of how you plan to disseminate the findings. Do you plan to use twitter, present at a conference, present locally, etc.

In your response please provide, point by point, your replies to the comments made by the editors, explaining how you have dealt with them in the paper.