

RESPONSE TO REVIEW COMMENTS

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.

We are happy to do this. We added a new section to the supplement, as you suggested, which includes new text about this topic and present the 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.

Thank you for catching this. We added a new sentence to the Methods section (page 6, lines 42-44) that makes clear that Taiwan is treated as a country for purposes of this analysis but is not internationally recognized as an independent country.

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.

Thanks for the clarification, which is very helpful. We completely agree with your rationale and adopted your wording verbatim (page 3, lines 17-19).

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.

We did both. The patient and public statement now appears on page 8 at the end of the Methods section, and we have expanded the dissemination plan on page 16. Getting the results of this study out to the public has been a matter of urgency for us for some time, which is why we requested a fast-track review, and we will begin organizing a formal outreach plan should the paper be accepted for publication.