



Abstracts of the 6th International Conference on Global Public Health 2021





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Perceived Effectiveness, Restrictiveness, and Compliance with Containment Measures against the Covid-19 Pandemic: An International Comparative Study in 11 Countries

Dr. Irina Georgieva

National governments took action to delay the transmission of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) by implementing different containment measures. We developed an online survey that included 44 different containment measures. We aimed to assess how effective citizens perceive these measures, which measures are perceived as violation of citizens' personal freedoms, which opinions and demographic factors have an effect on compliance with the measures, and what governments can do to most effectively improve citizens' compliance. The survey was disseminated in 11 countries: UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, India, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Sweden. We acquired 9543 unique responses. Our findings show significant differences across countries in perceived effectiveness, restrictiveness, and compliance. Governments that suffer low levels of trust should put more effort into persuading citizens, especially men, in the effectiveness of the proposed measures. They should provide financial compensation to citizens who have lost their job or income due to the containment measures to improve measure compliance. Policymakers should implement the least restrictive and most effective public health measures first during pandemic emergencies instead of implementing a combination of many restrictive measures, which has the opposite effect on citizens' adherence and undermines human rights.

Keywords: *pandemic; coronavirus; containment measures; effectiveness; restrictiveness; compliance; Covid-19; public health measures; human rights; proportionality principle*

**The Information Management, from the Data Collection to the Indicators' Formation,
at the Anápolis/Goiás Family Health Strategy Oral Health**

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The research discussed how the Information Management (IM) is developed and its influence on the Anápolis/GO Family Health Strategy (FHS) Oral Health decisions making related to Strategic Planning. The present study is justified by opening space for IM importance discussion in the Brazilian municipalities management decision-making process, based on the real situation of its population, which facilitates the Unified Health System quality actions and processes strengthening complex work. This investigation questioned how the data collection, the indicators formation and the information use occur on the Anápolis/GO FHS Oral Health? To achieve this objective, it analyzed the following processes: Dental Surgeons data collection, data processing by the Primary Care Information Sector (SISAB) and indicators formation and use by the managers. This is a descriptive research with qualitative approach and emphasis at the information formation and utilization process on the Oral Health Care.

The investigation was conducted through interviews with Anápolis/GO FHS Oral Health care, information technology and coordination professionals; semi-structured questionnaires were used as data collection instrument and Bardin Content Analysis (2011) as collect data interpretation technique. The results were able to identify that the Anápolis/GO FHS Oral Health does not have a health indicators formation institutionalized process and the majority of the SISAB digitized and health care professionals registered data has only bureaucratic and financial function. Consequently, management decisions are automatic and without statistical or scientific basis. In addition, the conducted interviews content analysis revealed the dual feeling that it is to Work in Brazilian public health, a suffering and pleasure mixture. The necessity of a capitalist gestion, defined by high productivity and profit, overlaps the population needs. Therefore, the Brazilian managers don't have the conscience and desire of a good governance appropriation.

Keywords: *Information Management, Oral Health, Decision Making, Indicator.*

Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy in Indonesia

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Indonesia ranks third in the number of smokers in the world after China and India. The number of smokers in Indonesia reaches 66 million (25.09%) of the total population of 263 million. Attempts in reducing the number of smokers has been continued yet still ineffective; even in the last 10 years, the number of smokers has continued to increase, especially among young people. From the medical aspect, smoking has a negative impact on health, including yellow teeth, neck cancer, lung disease, etc. The main problem that arises is that it is difficult to stop the smoking habit directly even though it has been through various efforts.

This research aimed to identify and analyze the factors that caused a person to smoke, and which strategies were the most appropriate of tobacco harm reduction according to the real condition. The method used was the combination of inductive and deductive approaches. The inductive approach used the descriptive and inferential statistical analysis, based on the empirical data obtained from the respondents through questionnaires, while the deductive approach used the discussion by experts. The analysis used were SAST (Strategic Assumption Surfacing and Testing) and ECM (Exponential Comparison Method). The analysis results of 930 respondents and discussions by experts, involving health experts, policy makers, business actors, as well as active and passive smokers, academics and associations, showed that the main factors that cause people to become smokers were just wanted to try, and being invited by their friends; and soon after feeling good, then they got used to it. There were three factors that made them willing to quit smoking: health, economic reasons, and also family encouragement. The development of other low-risk products was an alternative to tobacco harm reduction for those who found it difficult to quit immediately (cold turkey). The most appropriate strategy to control tobacco harm reduction was government affirmative policy, as well as correct and complete education regarding the risks of smoking, based on scientific evidence through segmented communication by building Penta Helix collaboration and synergy involving business actors, academics, government, society, market and the media.

Keywords: *Active smokers, Harm reduction, Segmented Communication, Penta helix*

Determinants of Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine among Healthcare Workers Using the Health Belief Model

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Purpose: Health care workers (HCWs) are considered a primary population for COVID-19 vaccination. Intention to vaccinate and vaccination acceptance are crucial to implementation. Previous studies demonstrated significant rates of hesitancy among HCWs. Tackling this challenge requires a deeper understanding of specific attributes and potential avenues for intervention in mitigating hesitancy. We wanted to assess the determinants of COVID-19 vaccine uptake among HCWs using the Health Belief Model (HBM) constructs.

Study design: A descriptive cross-sectional study.

Methods: The study conducted between December 26, 2020 – January 30, 2021, using an online platform questionnaire to assess the determinants of COVID-19 uptake among a sample of 878 HCWs in Israel. Logistic regression analysis was conducted to assess the study aims.

Results: About 76.9% of the HCWs were vaccinated against COVID-19. Higher scores in perceived susceptibility, benefits, and Cues to action were correlated with vaccination. A high score in perceived barriers was correlated with low vaccination probability. Recent flu vaccination and working at hospitals were associated with a high likelihood of vaccination.

Conclusion: Compliance among HCWs was high, correlating with 4 out of 5 parameters of the HBM. Working in a hospital and previous flu vaccine were related to vaccination compliance, a fact that may help with future strategies.

Factors Influencing Breastfeeding in the First Six Months of Age in the State of Kuwait

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Aim: To determine the factors influencing breastfeeding continuation for the first six months of a baby's life.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted by the research team via an interview-based questionnaire and interviewer at Al-Sabah Maternity Hospital. A total of 316 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti subjects participated in this study. Chi-square tests and logistic regression analysis were conducted to examine the factors influencing breastfeeding.

Results: A total of 196 (62%) of the mothers practiced any feeding, including formula and/or breast milk, only 12.3% of the mothers exclusively breastfed their babies for the first six months of life. Highly educated mothers were less likely to breastfeed than less educated mothers (OR: 0.14; 95% CI: 0.05-0.45). Not using pacifiers was positively associated with breastfeeding (OR: 2.15; 95% CI: 1.32-3.51). More than a third of the mothers reported stopping breastfeeding due to lack of lactation places in public and workplaces (50%) and insufficient milk production to support infant growth (32%).

Conclusion: Our findings highlight the importance of creating a supportive environment in workplaces and public areas to encourage mothers to breastfeed. Interventions for enhancing knowledge and promoting breastfeeding are advised, focusing on factors associated with early cessation.

Keywords: *Breastfeeding, Infant growth, exclusive, formula-feed.*

Analysing Gaps and Needs for a National Harmonized Cancer Patient Navigation Program in the Philippines

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Background. Cancer is a national health priority in the Philippines as its third leading cause of morbidity and mortality. Early detection and management is one recommendation as most cancers can be treated when diagnosed early. In LMICs, lack of access to cancer services and late-stage presentation of the disease is common. Patient navigation is an intervention model which intends to reduce cancer disparities. A navigation program can be expanded and applied to the entire continuum of care, from prevention to post-treatment. Evaluations of cancer patient navigation programs have shown that:

- They overwhelmingly target the underserved and marginalized.
- It increases cancer screening rates and early-stage diagnosis.
- Treatment adherence and outcomes are not significantly different from non-program patients.
- It increases patient-perceived quality of life and satisfaction.

Because of its demonstrated benefits in screening and initiating treatment, this project assessed gaps and needs in the development and implementation of a cancer patient navigation program in the Philippines as it considers transitioning to integrated health care provider networks under the Universal Health Care Law.

Methods. This research is using a mixed methods study design with an explanatory follow up approach. Assessment tools were developed based on 1) best practices identified through literature review and 2) current Philippine policies related to cancer patient navigation programs. The main areas of assessment were categorized according to the six building blocks of health. Three assessment tools were created per stakeholder type: health facilities, patients, and program implementers. Data are being collected through an online survey and follow up questions are coursed via email. Statistical and content analysis will be used to analyze the data collected.

The study will be completed by 15 September 2021.

Results and Discussion. The results of the survey will identify current gaps and needs in the implementation of a cancer patient navigation program in the Philippines. The results will be framed according to current health policy initiatives in the Philippines, specifically 1) Universal Health Care and 2) integrated health care provider networks.

Keywords: *cancer, patient navigation, service delivery network, universal health care*

Facts and Myths: The Influence of Intestinal Microbiota on Pregnancy and Child Development

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Introduction: The intestinal microbiota is a group of microorganisms residing in the human digestive tract. Its development is the most intensive in the first years of human life. Different factors may influence the development of microbiota before, at, and after birth. The intestinal microbiota plays an important role in the human metabolism and immunological system, it also affects pathological processes. Growing evidence indicates that the intrauterine environment is not sterile, as it was once presumed, but that maternal-foetal transmission of microbiota occurs during pregnancy.

Aim: Conducting a literature review on the influence of the intestinal microbiota on pregnant women and their offspring.

Material and methods: Review of the specialist literature published in the years 2015-2021.

Conclusion: It was long believed that the intrauterine environment was sterile. However, growing evidence suggests that many microorganisms, both pathological and protective, are able to penetrate the placenta. The order of the bacteria colonising in the digestive tract will affect the type of accumulated microorganisms and their ecological success. The genetic background of an infant is also very important in the formation of the intestinal microbiota. Obesity, maternal diet, smoking, and medication are among the accountable factors. Human intestinal microbiota is a complex ecosystem which will affect child development in the future.

Summary: Mother`s healthy lifestyle, both before and during pregnancy, is essential for ensuring proper development of the offspring. Thus, teaching mothers-to-be about healthy lifestyle prior to and during pregnancy appears to be an important issue.

Keywords: *intestinal microbiota, child health, genetic background*

Impact of COVID 19 in the Tuberculosis Services, Care and Support at the Community Level

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Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that causes COVID-19 which ranges from asymptomatic infection to mild infection, moderate infection, severe infection, and critical infection. WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on 13th March 2020? More than 210 countries/territories have had active cases and 1/3rd of the world's population has been on complete lockdown or partial travel restriction as to the disease control measures. COVID-19 and travel restrictions have affected the overall health service delivery system, including tuberculosis services at a community level.

It is a qualitative study to explore the impacts of COVID 19 on tuberculosis (TB) services, care and support. The data were collected through the field notes with diaries, with both descriptive information like informal communication with coworkers, and reflective information like thoughts, ideas, questions, and personal experiences of health workers during the field visit to monitor implementation of the National Tuberculosis Program. The travel restriction measures contribute to the delay in TB diagnosis reducing the accessibility of health services. Likewise, laboratory personnel were fully occupied in COVID 19 and could not focus on sputum tests for TB resulting in a delay in TB diagnosis. The number of OPD visits to health facilities was less, as patients were afraid to go to the health facilities due to the perceived risk of coronavirus. Similarly, the major activities like contact tracing of TB patients were severely hampered as health workers were busy in COVID 19 management. Health workers had to provide TB medicine for 1 month due to travel restrictions, raising the question about treatment adherence of TB patients. Besides, health workers had to change TB medicine from intensive phase to continuation phase without any sputum follow up examination at 2,3 months. Also, they were not doing regular recording and reporting of the TB program. Therefore, COVID 19 and travel restriction has affected TB diagnosis, treatment care and support at the community level.

Keywords: COVID-19, Pandemic, Tuberculosis, Effects

The Possibility of Using Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis in Postpartum Women

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The postpartum period is the period following delivery when the maternal anatomical and metabolic changes return to the nonpregnant state.

Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) is used to assess the body composition and hydration status. This technique represents a non-invasive and reliable clinical approach, which is well tolerated and widely accepted by patients. The BIA method measures impedance, i.e., resistance value, caused by the difference in electrical conductivity of each type of biological tissue, e.g., fat or muscles. It appears that BIA has a better prognostic potential than body mass index (BMI).

The aim of this study is to provide a review of different applications of BIA in postpartum women. It seems that the BIA method can be extensively used in puerperium. In early puerperium, after giving birth and before being discharged from the hospital, conducting BIA analysis of both body composition and hydration may give the opportunity of detecting certain abnormalities. On the one hand, the risk of complications in late puerperium, and on the other hand it can also be useful to predict the development of civilization diseases in the future. Being diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus, excessive gestational weight gain, gestational hypertension and preeclampsia during pregnancy increases the risk of developing pathologies such as type 2 diabetes mellitus, obesity, cardiovascular diseases with ischaemic heart disease and strokes in the future.

What is more, the assessment of the mother's body composition may be a valuable aid in formulating dietary recommendations.

It should be also emphasised that performing BIA measurements during puerperium does not raise any ethical doubts since the patient has already given birth.

Keywords: *bioelectric impedance analysis, postpartum woman, obesity, civilization disorder*

Delayed Children Healthcare Utilization during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia: A Cross-sectional Online Study

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Background: Since the start of the pandemic, health care providers and patients have worked to reduce COVID-19 transmission by limiting direct contact. As a result, many children are missing out or delay their health care utilization.

Objective: This study aims to assess factors associated with delayed children healthcare utilization during COVID-19 pandemics.

Method: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted in August-October 2020, gathering a total of 10,728 mothers with under five years old children. Respondents were residing in 33 provinces in Indonesia. Data were assessed using binary logistic regression to analyze factors associated with delayed children healthcare utilization. Healthcare utilization among under-five children includes growth monitoring, development monitoring, immunization, and treatment care for sick children.

Result: Among 10.728 respondents, 36% respondents reported delaying healthcare for their children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Growth monitoring (20%) was type of healthcare with the highest percentage of delayed healthcare. Furthermore, treatment care for sick children (13%) was the lowest percentage of delayed healthcare. Regarding multivariate analysis, we found that region, COVID-19 zonation, child's age, and maternal education were significantly associated with delayed children healthcare utilization. Respondents who live in Kalimantan (AOR:1.12; 95% CI: 1.01-1.26) or Sulawesi (AOR:1.61; 95% CI: 1.37-1.92) were more likely to delay children healthcare utilization compared to respondents who lived in Java-Bali. Delayed healthcare utilization is also 23% higher in children who live in the red zone and 40% higher in children aged 24-59 months. Respondents with high education were 1.5 times (95%CI: 1.29-1.65) more likely to delay children healthcare utilization than those with low education.

Conclusion: COVID-19 pandemic triggers delaying in the utilization of children's healthcare. Modified healthcare services using telemedicine should be considered to reduce delayed utilization. Targeted efforts to assist children in catching up for delayed check-ups, immunizations, screenings, and therapies could help mitigate or avoid adverse effects on children health.

Keywords: children healthcare, COVID-19 pandemic, delayed utilization.

Nutrition in the First 1,000 Days of Life – Why Do the First 1,000 Days Really Matter?

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Nutrition during the intrauterine life and the first 2 years of a child's life is extremely important because it will have a huge effect on the formation of proper eating habits as well as metabolic programming and health in the future. Proper nutrition during pregnancy, lactation and the first years of a child's life not only ensures proper weight gain and optimal nutritional status, but it also has an impact on long-term effects, such as proper functioning of the nervous system, reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases, obesity, and diet-related diseases. The first 1,000 days of life are also the period when the infant is most exposed to harmful factors. Raising the awareness of pregnant women about proper nutrition during pregnancy and infant feeding is one of the contemporary challenges of public health. The aim of the study is to present the current state of knowledge about the role of proper nutrition during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life on child development in the future. The study also presents the main implications of what has been termed the 1,000-day theory.

Keywords: *nutritional status, nutrition education, first 1,000 days of life, pregnancy*

Community Participation in the Construction of an Emergency and Disaster Plan in a Rural Setting

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The municipality of Tausa is in Colombia - South America, 65 km away from Bogotá, the capital. This community is predominantly rural and has 15 villages. Its population is 6150 people, 90% of whom live far from the urban centre. The main economic activities in the zone are agriculture, cattle raising, and mining.

The municipality has an emergencies and disasters plan, which was last updated in 2017. Nevertheless, the community is still unaware of its existence, components, and actions derived from it.

The aim is to build and implement the emergencies and disasters risk management plan for the municipality of Tausa, based on the active participation of the community and social actors, through the analysis and reflection on the risks and possible emergencies experienced by the community.

Methodology: A qualitative study based on participatory action research (PAR). It is characteristic of this kind of research that the participants in the project are members of a group or community who wish to find a solution to a problem. The collection and analysis of information occur in constant interaction and joint construction by the researcher and the participants.

Outcomes: The results of the first objective of the project, aimed at recognizing the risks of disasters and emergencies in the community, are presented here. The inhabitants of the municipality of Tausa perceive five types of risk: natural, anthropic, biological, occupational, and structural damage. The most frequently mentioned are landslides due to land instability, forest fires, deforestation, exposure to toxins from crop spraying and mining activities, also the inhalation of gases and particulate matter. They highlight the abandonment of dogs as a risk to the health and wellbeing of the community.

Keywords: *Community participation, Nursing Education, Emergency and disasters*

Impact of obesity in pregnant women on the risk of developing thromboembolic complications during pregnancy and puerperium

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Obesity, often referred to as the "21st century epidemic", affects a large proportion of the pregnant women population. It has been defined by the WHO as a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m² determined before the first visit or during the first trimester of pregnancy. The aim of the study is to reveal obesity in pregnancy as an important factor that directly influences the threefold increase in the risk of venous thromboembolic complications (VTE) and to discuss prophylaxis methods to minimize this risk.

The risk of VTE in pregnancy is 4-5 times higher and increases with its progression - the highest in the third trimester and in the postpartum period. Pregnancy is associated with chronic inflammation that activates platelets and leads to a physiological state of hypercoagulability as a protection against excessive blood loss during childbirth and the puerperium. Additionally, obesity in pregnancy activates the Virchow's triad. Pregnancy and obesity strongly correlate and lead to a significant increase in the risk of thromboembolic complications. VTE, including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, is the leading cause of maternal mortality in developed countries. For this reason, it is important to undertake appropriate prophylaxis, which includes non-pharmacological methods: early mobilization after childbirth, proper hydration or compression stockings with gradual pressure, and much more effective - pharmacological methods: low molecular weight heparins (recommended) or unfractionated heparins. They enhance the activity of antithrombin and intensify fibrinolysis and do not cross the placenta, but are associated with the risk of bleeding, osteoporosis and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.

International guidelines recommend the use of thromboprophylaxis in women at high risk of VTE in the early postpartum period. However, for similar-risk pregnant women, these guidelines focus on the individual assessment of VTE risk and the importance of recognizing early symptoms. Therefore, further research and the development of a management regimen for pregnant women are necessary. It also seems important to monitor gestational weight gain.

Keywords: *maternal obesity, pregnancy, thromboembolism*

The Mental Wellbeing, Physical Activity and Eating Habits of White British Adolescents Compared to Adolescents of Ethnic Minorities during the First UK COVID-19 Lockdown: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Background: Ethnicity is a construct that can be defined by distinctive cultural attributes and can contribute to variation in health due to genetic and socioeconomic influences. Pre-pandemic, adolescents from ethnic minority groups had better mental wellbeing but consumed less fruit and vegetables and exercised less frequently compared with their White British peers.

There is little peer-reviewed literature available concerning the wellbeing of different ethnicities during the first COVID-19 lockdown in the United Kingdom. This study therefore aims to redress this by examining differences in the mental wellbeing, eating habits and physical activity of Ethnic Minority adolescents compared with White British adolescents, and how these areas may have changed during lockdown.

Methods: Data was used from the CONTRAST study (June-July 2020): a national cross-sectional study of adolescents aged 11-15 years old. A selection of validated and bespoke questions was used to obtain data on sociodemographic characteristics, wellbeing, physical activity, relationships and eating habits. The variables were summarised and multi-level regression modelling was used to explore the association between ethnicity and each of the other characteristics.

Results: 680 adolescents participated; 515 White British and 165 who were Ethnic Minorities. Adolescents from Ethnic Minority backgrounds were likely to have a higher wellbeing score than White British adolescents (0.64 [-0.20, 1.49] $p=0.13$). However, they were more likely to be worried about catching COVID-19 (1.79 [1.17, 2.76] $p=0.01$). Before lockdown, they were more likely to eat breakfast each day and also more likely to snack. No significant difference was found in physical activity levels between White British and Ethnic Minority adolescents.

Conclusions: This study highlights ethnic differences in eating habits and mental wellbeing as well as some differential impacts of the first COVID-19 lockdown on these health-related measures. These findings can inform agencies involved in supporting adolescents to understand how the pandemic may have impacted this age group as well as contributing to planning support for them going forward, taking into account the difficulties they have faced during this time.

Keywords: *adolescents; COVID-19; ethnicity; wellbeing*

Psychological Distress and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer and All-Cause Mortality Among Adults with And Without Diabetes: A Prospective Cohort Study

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Objective: To examine the association between psychological distress and cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer and all-cause mortality in U.S. population and verify whether the associations differed between participants with and without diabetes.

Methods: A total of 485,864 adults (446,288 without diabetes and 39,576 with diabetes) who participated in the National Health Interview Survey from 1997 to 2013 and were linked to the National Death Index through December 31, 2015. The diagnosis of diabetes was determined by respondents' self-reported questionnaires. Psychological distress was measured by the Kessler 6 nonspecific distress scale (K6 score) (ranging from 0 to 24, scored 13 or higher indicating individual with serious psychological distress). Cox proportional hazards regression model with a full adjustment for demographics, lifestyle and health status variables was performed to estimate hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CI) for the association between psychological distress and mortality risk.

Results: We ascertained 11,746 deaths among people with diabetes (during a mean follow-up of 7.7 years) and 51,636 deaths (mean follow-up of 9.93 years) among those without diabetes. We found a statistically significant interaction ($P < 0.001$) of psychological distress and diabetes with mortality risk. Among adults with diabetes, HR (95% CI) for all-cause mortality were 1.15 (1.10-1.21) for 1-6, 1.37 (1.28-1.47) for 7-12 and 1.37 (1.26-1.50) for 13-24 K6 score vs. 0. For same contrasts, HRs among adults without diabetes were 1.09 (1.06-1.11), 1.32 (1.27-1.37), and 1.46 (1.38-1.55), respectively. Similar association was also found for CVD and cancer mortality.

Conclusion: We found a stronger association between psychological distress and mortality among participants without diabetes compared to those with diabetes. However, the joint association showed the risk of mortality may be further increased by the interaction between psychological distress and diabetes. If confirmed causal, strategies to ameliorate psychological distress may be important to reduce mortality, especially among population with diabetes.

Keywords: *diabetes mellitus, psychological distress, mortality, cohort study*