

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Detrimental changes to individual health promoting behaviors among internally displaced Israelis

Original Article, Int. J. Public Health

Reviewer: Rodolfo Saracci

Submitted on: 11 Feb 2025

Article DOI: 10.3389/ijph.2025.1607794

EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

The study reports the results of two surveys, respectively on 997 and 153 responders to an inquiry distributed via social media platforms, assessing the immediate and later changes in health promoting behaviours (physical activity, smoking etc.) and body weight, following the internal forced displacement of a large population within an economically developed country

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

Limitations of the study are the rather small size of the second sample investigating the late (8 to 9 months since displacement) behavioural changes and the limited degree of comparability of displaced and non-displaced people. The study provides however valuable information on how health promoting behaviours may be impacted by forced displacement even within the context of an economically developed country.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

This is an interesting study addressing with on the whole adequate methods the impact of forced displacement on health promoting behaviours within an economically developed country. An important unclear issue is on how the authors took care, when comparing each response variable between displaced and non-displaced people, of the baseline characteristics of the two groups: no information on the statistical methods of analysis is provided, in particular on univariate and multivariate adjustments. A number of specific points need to be addressed:

- Title. 'Fundamental' implies stable, long-term changes, which is not here the case. 'Overall' may be a preferable descriptive term. 'internally displaced': the forced nature of displacement due to war circumstances is better expressed by explicitly writing 'internally forcibly displaced' (similarly the expression 'forcibly displaced' should be preferably used throughout in the text)

- Abstract.

- line 4: add 'forcibly'

- line 5: replace long-term with 'late' (long-term conveys the ideas of years more than of months as is here the case)

- line 10: 'meaningful' seems to indicate an effect of substance but is in fact a vague term, replace it simply with the descriptive technical term 'statistically significant'

- line 10: 'PA' add (physical activity)

- line 18: this does not state the study conclusions, please rephrase concisely stating the key results

- line 35: correct misprint 'diet' into 'diet'

- line 42 and ff.: this can be shortened removing the full stop and continuing as ", although it is most likely that all Israelis have been deeply influenced in various ways by the October 7th terror attack".

- line 92: replace 'fundamental' with 'overall'

- line 101: here a section on statistical methods of analysis needs to be inserted, with particular attention

to which variables have been used in multivariate analyses

-line 134 : 'Pv' : please use consistently throughout the paper the notation 'P' , not 'Pv'

-line 156 : change 'fundamental' into 'overall' and 'hobbits' into 'habits'

-line 161 : change 'long-term' into 'late'

-line 162 : please clarify whether the people in the second sample were the same as in the first, or different ones (as it seems from the text) or partly the same and partly different

-line 209 : 'experience' should be 'experiences'

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

See in Q3 the suggested modifications to the title

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes, the key word "displaced population" should be 'Forcibly displaced population' and come first in the list

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes, quality can be rated as sufficient

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality

☒☒☒☒☐

Q 10 Rigor

☒☒☒☐☐

Q 11 Significance to the field

☒☒☒☐☐

Q 12 Interest to a general audience

☒☒☒☐☐

Q 13 Quality of the writing

☒☒☒☐☐

Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study

☒☒☒☐☐

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Major revisions.