



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_14429
Title of the Manuscript:	Population stress, civil unrest and the male to female ratio at birth in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and Finland
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment Answers in text in highlight red	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	I have some doubts about your paper and you need to explain better some parts. In the introduction lines 53 to 56, you need to show where this reference comes from to this statement: "Pregnant women who are stressed or who are exposed to toxins have therefore developed mechanisms that allow them to cull male foetuses that are least likely to eventually sire grandchildren and thereby fail to propagate their genes. A population's M/F therefore falls under such circumstances". You need to explain about the concept the stress in this paper, what kind and what does it mean? In line 66 to 67 and 78, you need to put the reference about: World Health Organisation (WHO) dataset comprising annual live births by year and country. And on line 84 it is necessary to put how did you have had access to this database and what period was chosen to study these countries. I suppose, in the beginning, you have studied the countries in the same period, after that you found the outliers and searched for the correlation with politics situations in these countries in these years. I would like you have explained these steps in the part about Methods. In lines 73 and 74, it is better on academic papers not to use such adjectives like that: repressive communist or democratic elections.	A new paragraph has been added explaining the meaning of stress in this scenario along with several references to back the claims, giving specific examples of how M/F has been shown to be lowered by various kinds of stress. Reference added Now mentioned in text That is correct. When I studied countries and continents, I noted these outliers and set them aside so as to look at them in detail. This is now mentioned in the methods along with several new references. The term repressive was removed and the term democratic was replaced with parliamentary



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	Many factors can influence data, especially in vital statistics; countries have different structure for data collection. The WHO in the document named Estimation Method for Child Mortality Used in: Level and Trends of Child Mortality – 2013Report says about quality data problems in vital statistics: Compile and assess the quality of all newly available nationally-representative data relevant to the estimation of child mortality including data from vital registration systems, population censuses, household surveys and sample registration systems. This discrepancy can lead to under-reporting of infant deaths by some countries, particularly when compared with countries that use a broader definition for live birth. The international discrepancies in data may have existed for some time, but they have been overlooked because of much higher infant mortality rates. Now that rates are so much lower, however, differences in registration may be more important in explaining inter-country differences in infant mortality? It is important to say about the quality of data collection in the studied countries. I would like if you could include this subject in the introduction or in the methods. For example, in Brazil the live births system was created in 1992 and many studies have shown some problems in the collected data in maternities in Brazilian rural areas. Before that, the Brazilian statistics were based in census data, church registration or at the registry house. You can find this information about data collection in	This is now mentioned in the methods section as requested and the WHO report recommended by the reviewer is cited.
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	these countries in WHO the Global Health Observatory Data Repository. This discrepancy induces in a wrong or absent live birth register and influence in your analysis, for example, one child that was born alive and after some minutes die, can be considered an abortion in some cultural situations. In this case it doesn't matter if is a male or a female, your statistics will be fail. In the discussion, the analysis was unequal about the studied countries. Your analysis about Chile, for example, need to consider the thousands of young missing persons in the Pinochet government, like you said about Argentina. This situation really provokes stress in women, especially mothers, and put terrible scars in one country. Think about it. In Brazil the analysis was too short, only about the 1990 's , after this period the country have had many other situations that could have reflected in people stressed like elections and strong social movements. In fact, I am curious about how this indicator could reflect the stress to live in violent areas in some metropolitan regions in Brazil, where the Brazilian statistics showed risen mortality in the young age 15 to 24 in this areas. I believe if all the analysis were similar to the Finland analysis, it were better because the Finland analysis included the period 1950 to 2008, which is more than fifty years. The conclusion is poor; you need to improve after the suggestions above.	The Chile-Pinochet regime is now mentioned in the discussion as advised and a new reference has been added (Wyndham). The years for which data was available are now listed in the methods section. Along with a statement that only outlier values were considered since broad secular trends in these regions have already been considered, albeit at continental level. I do not wish to be accused of publishing the same results twice. See above Conclusion slightly lengthened.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Line 285, 288, 291, 294 and 297, you need to put the reference for the table data.	Done.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	Your analysis had focus in political points, but stress can be provoked by many others factors..	This has been done in the introduction.