

Review of: "What is the impact of COVID-19 era on annual tuberculosis notifications in India? A comparative study (2017-2022)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Authors,

I would like to acknowledge the importance of this manuscript. This study shows perspectives to better respond to increases in TB morbi-mortality due to Covid- pandemic.

However in an attempt to turn this work even better, and more clear to reader globally, I have few suggestions.

I would suggest to write absolute numbers using comas, like "... during pre- COVID-19 era (2017-2019) was 5,914,621 (instead 5914621) to facilitate the reading.

The introduction brings critical information to alert policy markers globally for the impact of covid- 19 on TB, not only medical point of view, but also the socio-economic impact of covid-19 on TB burden. However, I missed a comment on lockdown and, restrictions to movement leading to decrease on access to health care (multifactorial causes such as economics, public transportation restrictions, closure of health services etc). Therefore, a delay on TB diagnosis and treatment could cause an increase on late TB diagnosis, as well as in TB mortality.

Also, I would suggest to describe the aim of the study, connecting it to the "research question" mentioned in the results which was not clear .

In Methods, I would suggest to describe which kind of "performance" is mentioned in the first paragraph. Is it related to quality of care? To public health (policies) response?

As we can note, there are many sociodemographic differences among Indian states. However for a reader like me, who doesn't know well those differences, could be interesting to have the DHI (development human index) associated to each state (if available). Like that, the study could show the socio-economic impact in TB, in a way that can be globally understand.

In conclusion and recommendation, I would recommend improvements on public health policies to expand TB detection and treatment in a way to "compensate" the drop identified by the study during covid- 19 time. The study is important to "push" those policies, emphasizing that even with the returning to normal functions, health services must have the capacity to increase their TB detection to avoid increases in morbi-mortality related to TB in the coming years.

