

From the editors

Dear Readers

In this issue of the Journal you will find eight original research articles, one report article, one commentary and one technical brief.

The eight research articles in this issue of our Journal address various issues of public health. The first research article is on environmental health in which the authors investigate the health risk of long-term exposure to air pollutants. Authors found that dermal contact with particulate matter (PM) bound metals was the main route of exposure for children, while the adults were more prone to non-carcinogenic risks from exposure through inhalation. In the next article authors determine the frequency of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following a flood and assess factors associated with risk of PTSD. It was found that being a woman, drifting in floodwater, experiencing physical trauma during the flood, having experienced a flood before, worsening of one's economic condition after the flood, loss of farmland caused by the flood and having a psychiatric disorder were associated with a high PTSD score. The third article is about health behaviours and behaviour change among university students. Authors conclude that in order to improve healthy lifestyle behaviours,

awareness-raising activities should be implemented.

Two of the research articles in this issue deal with anxiety and depression among two different groups of people; emergency station personnel and medical students. The personnel of 112 emergency stations are at risk of anxiety and depression. For the medical students it was observed that approximately one in five students experienced significant levels of depression, anxiety and stress.

One of the research articles is about Early Childhood and Classroom Education Department Students' knowledge on eye health. It was found that the knowledge of the students was not satisfactory in general and improving the eye health education program in the curriculum was recommended. Another research article is about the association between health literacy and attitude towards breast cancer screening. Based on study results, low health literacy level seems to be an important barrier for breast cancer knowledge, affecting screening attitudes. The last research article of this issue is about suicide mortality trends by age, gender and method in Turkey between 2002 – 2015. Authors found that male suicides showed an increasing trend in the time

interval studied for the age groups under 15, 25-44, 65 and above, in addition suicides committed by firearms also increased in the group under 15 years of age.

The report article in this issue is about the presence of genetically modified foods in infant formula and complementary food samples sold in markets in Ankara. In the Commentary paper, the author discusses obesogenic effect of maternal smoke exposure. The technical report is about estimation of design effect in multicentre health research and its effect on sample size.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Turkish Journal of Public Health and we would like to thank all the authors and reviewers who contributed to this issue of the journal.

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