

From the Editors

Dear readers,

In this issue of our Journal we welcome you with six research articles, a short report and a letter to the editor. The research papers include studies conducted in various regions of Turkey and cover a variety of public health topics such as: infectious disease, elderly health, vulnerable groups, school health, environmental health and reproductive health.

The first research paper covers a study conducted in Iraq on the prevalence of anti-HBs among healthcare workers. According to its results, the rate of vaccination coverage and post-vaccination testing was determined to be low, although the rate of anti-HBs was adequate in fully-vaccinated health care workers. It was further shown that post-exposure prophylaxis is not applied in the health institutions of Duhok. The second research article investigates the difficulties LGBT+ individuals face in accessing healthcare resources. The findings of this study highlight the need for LGBTI+ friendly health institutions to fight against discrimination and serve as a tool for health promotion. A third study assesses the access of women of reproductive age, in Karabük, to health and family planning (FP) services. According to this study, FP needs are not met for one in every ten women in Karabuk. In order to improve access to FP services, community oriented primary care services are highlighted as a potential point of intervention. The fourth study, conducted in Çanakkale, evaluates the quality of life of the elderly and offers suggestions for improvement interventions. A fifth study, conducted in a district of Mersin, evaluates 30 school canteens in terms of food safety and quality.

Finally, in the sixth study, the authors evaluate electrical field (E) levels in three regions of Samsun, at 152 different points. Although the recorded E levels were below the limits determined by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA); it was found to be high in comparison to countries like Switzerland and Italy, where lower limits are enforced. The authors suggest that E levels should be measured and monitored at regular intervals and kept at levels that do not threaten public health and safety.

In the short report included in this issue, the association between specialty choices and personality traits is discussed with reference to resident doctors in Bursa. In the Letter to the Editor, the holistic approach to health is explored within a new conceptual framework, and this framework is shown to be open to debate.

We hope you will read and appreciate the August issue of our Journal. We would like to thank all our contributing authors and referees.

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