

Original communication with the Editor of April 3, 2025

De : Riou Julien

Envoyé : jeudi, 3 avril 2025 08:42

À : EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk

Cc : matthias.egger@unibe.ch; r.panczak@gmail.com; Konstantinoudis, Garyfallos <g.konstantinoudis@imperial.ac.uk>

Objet : Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear Professor Allebeck,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of my co-authors and myself regarding our article *"Area-level excess mortality in times of COVID-19 in Switzerland: geographical, socioeconomic and political determinants"* (EJPH-2023-11-SR-0665.R1), published in the *European Journal of Public Health* on 24 January 2024. In this study, we analysed excess all-cause mortality at the municipality level in Switzerland during 2020, focusing on the influence of geographical, socioeconomic, and political factors.

We have recently identified an error in the calculation of expected mortality for 2020. Specifically, in our original submission, expected mortality was calculated for the period from 24 February 2020—the date of the first reported COVID-19 case in Switzerland—through 31 December 2020, rather than for the entire calendar year. The exclusion of the initial weeks of 2020 resulted in an underestimation of expected deaths: the median expected number of deaths was reported as 55,676 instead of the correct value of 65,201.

We have re-run the analyses using the corrected expected mortality data. As anticipated, overall excess mortality estimates were reduced; however, the observed associations between municipality-level excess mortality and geographical, socioeconomic, and political characteristics remained and the conclusions are unchanged.

We deeply regret this oversight and would like to submit a formal correction to uphold the accuracy and integrity of our work. Attached to this message, please find the proposed correction note, along with the revised figure and supplementary materials. We kindly request that the correction be published in the journal at your earliest convenience.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if any further steps or documentation are required to facilitate this process.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. We sincerely appreciate your assistance and understanding.

With best regards,

Dr. Julien Riou | Médecin associé

unisanté

**Centre universitaire de médecine générale
et santé publique • Lausanne**

Département Epidémiologie et systèmes de santé

Route de la Corniche 10 | Bureau BIO 02/01/151

CH-1010 Lausanne

T : +41 21 314 73 75

www.unisante.ch

Reminder of April 23, 2025

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisante.ch>
Sent: 23 April 2025 06:15
To: EURPUB editorialoffice <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Vous n'obtenez pas souvent d'e-mail à partir de julien.riou@unisante.ch. Pourquoi c'est important<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

Dear [REDACTED]

I wrote 3 weeks ago to request a correction in my own published article. I understand that there may be delays, but could you please confirm that my inquiry has been seen and will be treated? It is important for me not to let errors out for too long.

Best regards,

Julien

Reminder of July 1, 2025

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisant.ch>
Sent: 01 July 2025 16:28
To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>
Cc: matthias.egger@unibe.ch <matthias.egger@unibe.ch>
Subject: Re: Request for Correction in Published Article

Vous n'obtenez pas souvent d'e-mail à partir de julien.riou@unisant.ch. [Pourquoi c'est important](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

On April 3rd, 2025 I asked for a correction to be made on my article with reference EJPH-2023-11-SR-0665.R1, published in the European Journal of Public Health on 24 January 2024. On April 23rd I asked for an update, and you told me that the correction had been transferred to the relevant team.

As we are now in July, I am wondering if you could update me about this correction? It is very important to me not to let mistakes out in publications, I would very much appreciate if the corrected version could be published rapidly.

Thanks in advance and best regards,

Julien Riou

Reminder of September 3, 2025

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisant.ch>

Sent: 03 September 2025 06:37

To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>

Cc: mathias.egger@unibe.ch <mathias.egger@unibe.ch>; peter.allebeck@ki.se <peter.allebeck@ki.se>

Subject: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear [REDACTED]

Following up on your 2 July message about the urgent reminder to production. Could you tell us what happened with it, and when can we expect the correction to be completed?

As a reminder, we first requested this correction in April. We are very concerned that a known error has remained published for five months without resolution.

Best regards,

Julien Riou

Reminder of December 29, 2025

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisante.ch>

Sent: 29 December 2025 11:37

To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>

Cc: peter.allebeck@ki.se <peter.allebeck@ki.se>; Matthias Egger <matthias.egger@uzh.ch>

Subject: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear colleague,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am following up regarding your message of 3 September concerning the urgent request to implement the correction in production. I did not receive any response from them. This matter remains a high priority for me, as the correction has been pending for nine months despite our repeated requests.

Given the lack of progress, I regret to inform you that I will now escalate this issue to my university's legal department for further assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Julien

Resending the correction note on December 30, 2025

De : Riou Julien

Envoyé : mardi, 30 décembre 2025 13:12

À : 'EURPUB Editorial Office' <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>

Cc : 'Matthias Egger' <matthias.egger@uzh.ch>

Objet : RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your answer, I'm happy to see this moving forward. Please find enclosed all the necessary files for the correction notice. The error is described in the cover letter.

Best regards,

Julien

Reminder of February 13, 2026

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisant.ch>

Sent: 13 February 2026 13:32

To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear [REDACTED]

Again I'm back to you as I never heard back about this correction. Let me stress again that it is very important that this mistake is corrected!

Best

Julien

Reminder of June 2, 2026

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisant.ch>

Sent: 02 June 2026 16:01

To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Hi [REDACTED]

I am still waiting on the correction.

Since this is getting comical (more than 1 year) I think my next move will be to go to the press, some journalists may be interested in how difficult it is to correct mistakes in published papers even when the author spot them and ask the editor to change it...

Best,

Julien

Reminder of June 5, 2026

From: Riou Julien <Julien.Riou@unisantech.ch>
Sent: 05 June 2026 18:24
To: EURPUB Editorial Office <EURPUB.editorialoffice@paeditorial.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Request for Correction in Published Article

Hi,

Did you check with the team?

Reminder of June 12, 2026

De: Riou Julien
Envoyé: vendredi, 12 juin 2026 11:30
À: 'EURPUB Editorial Office'
Objet: RE: Request for Correction in Published Article

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you, did you hear back from the corrections team? Considering the delays of over 1 year I think our correction should be put at the top of the list, even considering the high volume of queries.

I am determined to push this through the end this time.

Best regards,
Julien