

Cover Letter

Daniel Alfredo Landínez-Martínez

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Daniel Rincón Cuartas

Luis Amigo Catholic University

July 13, 2021

Dear Editors,

We wish to submit an original research article entitled “**Prevalence of behavioral and mental disorders in Manizales, Colombia**” for consideration by the Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology.

We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, it is reported that 30,3% of all participants displayed behavioral and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence. One plausible explanation for this finding could be the role of environmental factors, which may either protect against or promote the development of these disorders. For instance, socially inactive leisure time has been related to increased occurrence of psychiatric disorders. These findings have remained significant even after controlling for commonly known family-related risk factors for psychiatric morbidity of young individuals such as parents’ mental health disorders, parental educational level, and living with a single parent. It is expected that the results of this study are useful for public mental health policies, prevention and intervention strategies for mental disorders prevalent in each life cycle.

We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by the Mediterranean Journal of Clinical Psychology because it encompasses how the general population is more prone to mental and behavioral disorders from a clinical and health perspective.

Findings in this study are of great relevance given that our results suggest that a great percentage of the sample reported high prevalence of behavioral and mental disorders (Behavioral and emotional disorders with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence, disorders of psychological development, mood [affective] disorders, organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders, mental retardation and symptoms and signs involving cognition, perception, emotional state and behavior). The readership of the journal will be interested in this study because to our knowledge this is one of the first studies to consider the disparity in prevalence between males and females with autism and related conditions.

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

This article contains seven tables.

We confirm that the manuscript has been read and approved by all named authors and that there are no other persons who satisfied the criteria for authorship but are not listed. We further confirm that the order of authors listed in the manuscript has been approved by all of us.

We understand that the Corresponding Author is the sole contact for the Editorial process. He is responsible for communicating with the other authors about progress, submissions of revisions and final approval of proofs

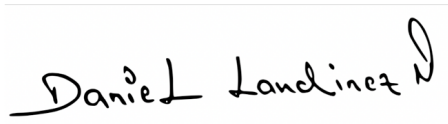
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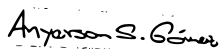
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Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

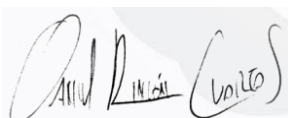
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Landínez" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Landínez Martínez

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anyerson S. Gómez".

Anyerson Gómez Tabares

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Rincón Cuartas".

Daniel Rincón Cuartas