

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

This article presents an innovative perspective regarding the decision-making, policy development, and implementation strategies employed by the Macao SAR government during the pandemic. This is accomplished through a review of legislative council members' speeches, inquiries, and other relevant documents. By employing a combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques, such as word frequency analysis and word vector models, a strong basis is built to evaluate the scientific reliability, objectiveness, and clarity of the complicated measures linked to the policies. In addition to identifying the frequency of keywords during two epidemic periods, the study develops correlations between these periods and government policies as well as other influential factors. I propose several recommendations to enhance the clarity of the manuscript.

Areas for Improvement and Extension

I recommend that the authors expand the introduction to encompass the influences of government restrictions, vaccination strategies, and the demographic and health characteristics of the population. For instance:

- M Gosak et al. examines the timing and effectiveness of community lockdowns and travel restrictions in slowing epidemic spread.
- R Markovič et al. explores the progression of COVID-19 epidemics and containment strategies under various vaccination scenarios. It considers data indicating that older individuals, those with comorbidities and poor metabolic health, and residents of economically disadvantaged areas with generally lower quality of life are more susceptible to severe COVID-19 symptoms, faster immunity loss, and higher reinfection risk.

By including these aspects, the authors will be able to provide a more thorough understanding of the study's significance to the development of succeeding social interventions and public health policies.

Reply: Thank you for your insight and constructive comment. As noted by the reviewer, this article underscores the significance of closely monitoring the evolution of prevention and control policies, especially in the context of public health, mental health, and vaccination efforts. However, it was previously observed that the article lacked substantial and robust literature support. Addressing this feedback, the current revision incorporates additional scholarly sources in the background section. This enhancement not only substantiates the article's emphasis on the importance of these health aspects

but also provides a stronger academic foundation to the discussion on public health and mental health strategies, as well as vaccination protocols.

Changes in the text: We have modified our text in main document as advised (see Page 10 to 11, line 162 to 180; Page 36 to 37, line 712 to 730).

Reviewer B

The article titled "Text Analysis of Macao's COVID-19 Prevention and Control Policies: Discussion on Strategy Evolution and Public Health Capabilities" receives my positive review for its innovative approach and comprehensive analysis. Utilizing the word vector model, an advanced AI algorithm, this study conducts a thorough examination of the Legislative Council's oversight of Macao's COVID-19 prevention and control measures. The model transforms speeches, inquiries, and news content from the Legislative Council into numerical vectors, enabling a deep and insightful data analysis and pattern recognition. This methodology offers a novel perspective on policy development and shifts in public health capabilities, guiding the government towards more people-centered policies.

In particular, the article provides an in-depth exploration of the public health needs and considerations influencing policy decisions. This analysis sheds light on the policy-making process and the evolving demands in public health, offering essential insights for governments to shape their policy-making strategies. Additionally, the study's examination of news content adds further depth and breadth to the research. By quantifying news content, it captures the Legislative Council's level of concern and the effectiveness of government responses to the pandemic. This information is crucial for governments to understand public needs and align their policies accordingly.

In summary, this article effectively employs the word vector model for a detailed analysis of Macao's COVID-19 prevention and control policies. I believe this study will significantly contribute to Macao's efforts in this area and advance the field of public health. I strongly recommend its publication to reach a broader audience of readers and researchers in the relevant fields.

Reply: Thank you for your comment and meticulous review.

Changes in the text: N/A