The intent behind fire-related deaths could not be determined from the SCD despite the use of external cause codes, so fire-related suicide rates from Tamil Nadu were used. However, this extrapolation of suicide data from a rural area of a southern state to the entirety of India is unlikely to result in accurate estimates, since large differences exist in cause-specific death rates in various regions. In view of these limitations, the absolute number of fire-related deaths estimated by Sanghavi and colleagues might not reflect the true burden. Existing research needs to be supplemented by nationally representative studies such as the Million Death Study; estimates of burn injury from this study are due this year.

We declare that we have no conflicts of interest.

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