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Density of Peruvian anesthesiologists in 2020

Densidad de médicos anesthesiólogos peruanos en 2020

Dear Editor

It was with significant interest that I reviewed the Chapter entitled "Anesthesia and Analgesia in the Global Context," published in the last edition of the book *Miller's Anesthesia*. The article makes a practical review of the practice of anesthesiology in Colombia and Paraguay, under the South American section.¹ However, the introduction claims that Perú has the lowest density of

anesthesia specialists in South America (1.7 per every 100,000 inhabitants). Such rate was estimated using a global survey conducted between 2015 and 2016. The survey was addressed to the National Societies of Anesthesiology in 150 countries (see third column, [Table 1](#)).²

[Table 1](#) shows that the lowest and highest density in Latin America and the Caribbean is found in Haiti and

Table 1. Density of anesthesiologists per every 100,000 inhabitants in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Country	Source: The Lancet Global Health (2015)	Source: WFSA (2020)	Other reports
Antigua y Barbuda	2.2	2	-
Argentina*	11	10.96	7.2 (2015)
Bahamas	6.7	3.35	-
Belize	-	1.95	-
Bolivia*	12.1	6.71 [†]	-
Brazil*	12.6	11.55	9.2 (2017)
Chile*	13.3	6.57	8.03 (2016)
Colombia*	5.5	7.46	6.5 (2017)
Costa Rica	5.8	8.26	6.8 (2018)
Cuba	16	15.68	-

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Correspondence: Servicio de Centro Quirúrgico y Anestesiología, Hospital EsSalud Talara, Avenida Panamericana s/n Talara, 20811 Piura, Perú.
E-mail: Shiraishi52@hotmail.com

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Country	Source: The Lancet Global Health (2015)	Source: WFSA (2020)	Other reports
Dominica	2.8	2.74	–
Dominican Republic	–	7.6	–
Ecuador*	12.9	1.8	–
El Salvador	1.9	2.71	–
Granada	1.9	1.87	–
Guatemala	1	1.9	–
French Guiana*	–	9.31	–
Guyana*	1.1	3.26	–
Haiti	0.6	0.88	–
Honduras	1.9	2.23	–
Jamaica	1.4	1.43	–
Mexico	7.2	6.42	11.51 (2018)
Nicaragua	2.6	4.11	–
Panama	5.5	9.57	–
Paraguay*	2.3	4.93 [†]	–
Peru*	4.6	1.76	–
San Cristobal and Nieves	5.6	5.36	–
Saint Lucia	3.9	3.78	–
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1.8	1.82	–
Surinam*	–	3.5	–
Trinidad and Tobago	5.6	5.51	–
Uruguay*	9.7	13.69	–
Venezuela*	–	2.22	–

* Countries in South America.

[†] Information updated to 2020 collected from Ref.³ with regard to Ref.² published in 2017 (both surveys conducted by the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists—WFSA).

Source: Author based on WFSA,³ Holmer et al,⁴ MinSalud Argentina,⁵ Scheffer,⁶ MinSalud Chile,⁷ Government of Colombia,⁸ Heinze-Martin.⁹

Cuba, respectively. However, according to the source, it is obvious that there is a significant difference in terms of the densities in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Mexico. Such discrepancy in the figures should be approached through further research to clarify the information.

With regard to the density of Peruvian anesthesiologists, it must be highlighted that although the number of members of the Peruvian Society of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Resuscitation was 1150 in 2019,¹⁰ in accordance with

the current records of the Peruvian Medical College, there are 2305 practicing anesthesiologists (general and sub-specialized).¹¹ Considering that the Peruvian population is 32,824,358 inhabitants,¹² the resulting rate is of 7 specialists per every 100,000 inhabitants in 2020. The difference in the number of specialists could be the result of the fact that the membership of the national society is not mandatory, but registration with the college and registration before the Peruvian Medical College is mandatory to

be able to practice medicine throughout the country (primary care and all specialties).¹³

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Conflicts of interest

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Carlos Javier Shiraishi-Zapata

Servicio de Centro Quirúrgico y Anestesiología,
Hospital EsSalud Talara, Piura, Perú.