

# Modeling Trade Openness and Life Expectancy in China

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**Objective:** This study investigates life expectancy and trade openness in China for the period 1960–2018.

**Methods:** We purposed a theoretical model that is tested for China by applying regime-switching regression.

**Results:** Our findings suggest that trade openness increases life expectancy in China; trade affects life expectancy from two aspects; firstly, trade expansion and industrialization lead to high economic activities and resulted in raise the income of the people in society leading to improve life expectancy. Secondly, industrial expansion increases the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which leads to imposes a negative implication on human health and thus reduces life expectancy.

**Conclusion:** Thus, the net effect of trade liberalization depends on the value of income effect and volume of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Therefore, the government needs to support the trade policies which causes a low level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the government may provide incentives to exports and industrialists to adopted green energy in the production process. Besides, the government may impose some regulations such as carbon tax to mitigate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in society.

**Keywords:** trade, life expectancy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, health quality, regime-switching regression, China

## Introduction

Trade Openness has multidimensional implications on the economy, environment, and human health. Trade openness expands industrial production, which increases the income and welfare of the people in the economy.<sup>1</sup> The rise of income due to the trade expansion improves the standard of living and people may adopt a healthy lifestyle and better maintain health quality thus leads to improve life expectancy.<sup>2–4</sup> Besides the positive effect of trade, there is also a negative effect of trade openness mainly due to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in society. Trade activities increase CO<sub>2</sub> emission in three different ways; scale effect, composition effect, and technique effect.<sup>5,6</sup> The scale effect represents the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a result of trade liberalization and the rise of industrial production, especially in the export sector industries.<sup>7,8</sup> The composition effect arises due to change in the production pattern and comparative advantage which implies that industries specialize in those products in which the country has a comparative advantage. The technique effect is the final channel through which trade increases CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and it indicates that post-trade openness countries change production patterns towards more technological modes, consequently leading to higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the economy.<sup>7</sup> The trade liberalization could potentially increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions unless its embodied regulations control greenhouse-gas in production.

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Carbon dioxide emissions reduce environmental quality and negatively affect human health and labor productivity.<sup>9</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the major cause of influencing environmental quality that adversely affects life expectancy. The medical research found different types of mortalities resulted from environmental pollution, for example, small particulate matter causes work loss and bed disability in adults.<sup>10</sup> Different pollutants like sulfur dioxide and total suspended particulate (TSP) increases mortality rates.<sup>11</sup> Trade openness increases the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions leading to reduces air quality which resulted in a low level of life expectancy.<sup>7,12,13</sup> There is a causal link between life expectancy and environmental quality; several studies in medicine and epidemiology, like Elo and Preston;<sup>14</sup> Pope<sup>15</sup>; Evans and Smith<sup>16</sup> show that poor environmental quality leads to reduces life expectancy.

Trade openness is an important driver of progress, skill transfer and productivity among the regions of the world. Hence, enriched literature is available on various aspects of the impact of trade openness on economic growth, income distribution, government spending and environment. However, there is little known about the effect of trade openness on physical health. To the best of our knowledge none of the published studies so far have examined the relationship among trade openness and life expectancy by using long time series data for the period 1960–2018. Therefore, this study will fill the narrow gap by investigating trade openness on life expectancy using China as case study for the period 1960–2018.

China has a significant contribution both in world trade and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; trade activities could potentially influence the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in China therefore this study aims to explore the relationship between trade and life expectancy in China for the period 1960–2018. Furthermore, there is no clear theoretical model that links trade openness with life expectancy, hence we firstly construct a theoretical model that linking trade implication of trade openness for life expectancy. Secondly, we will test our theoretical model by using the regime-switching regression method and further verify our baseline results by applying the Granger causality test and OLS for the robustness of our results. Our theoretical model covers both aspects of trade implication for life expectancy and it could provide detailed policy insight to policymakers and stakeholders to improve trade policy and reduces the negative implication of trade openness in China.

The rest of the paper structure is as follow: Trade, CO<sub>2</sub> and Life Expectancy in China presents the theoretical

framework of the study: In Methodology and Model we briefly describe Trade, CO<sub>2</sub> and Life Expectancy in China: Results and Discussion presents the methodological approach used in the study. **Conclusion** conclude the study.

## Theoretical Framework

Following the Bernard et al<sup>17</sup> model for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and trade, the initial equation shows consumer preferences for a good produced in-country d and consumed in-country j. the consumer presences can be presented as follow.

### Consumption

$$U_d = [\Pi_{j=1}^J (Q_d^j)^{\alpha_j}] \left[ \frac{1}{1 + (\mu_d^{-1} \sum_{o=1}^N E_o)^2} \right] \quad (1)$$

$$Q_d^j = \left( \sum_{o=1}^N (Q_{od}^j)^{\frac{\sigma_j-1}{\sigma_j}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma_j}{\sigma_j-1}} \quad (2)$$

The model further assumed a world of N countries, a representative agent, and a fixed labor supply. Equation 27 shows the utility function for the consumption of the traded commodity  $Q_d^j$  transported from country O to country D. The second equation indicates the disutility due to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to the trade activities.<sup>18</sup> The term  $Q_d^j$  shows CES aggregate of varieties  $Q_{od}^j$  which indicates trade from origin country o to destination country d of sector j goods. The  $\sigma_j$  is elasticity of substitution between sector j varieties, which is greater than 1.<sup>7</sup> The constant elasticity substitution preferences across the sectors show that the country d spends a share on j sectors. The  $E_o$  is social cost represented by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from country o. It is assumed that production requires labor as a single factor, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are assumed as a pure negative externality, which decreases the utility but it does not affect the trade. Equation 27 show that the increase in the total quantity of products transported from country O to country D will increase the utility while the increase of the quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> emission will decrease the utility. The price index under for sector j in country d under these assumptions could be represented as follow

$$P_d^j = \left[ \sum_{o=1}^N (P_{od}^j)^{1-\sigma_j} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma_j}} \dots^{15}$$

This equation is similar to the utility equation and its total price of sector j from country O to country D. Where  $P_d$  is the total price of sector j,  $P_{od}^j$  shows the price of sector

j from o country to d country. The local price is assumed  $P_d^j \equiv \Pi_{j=1}^j (p_d^j)^{d_j}$ , this price index does not contain CO<sub>2</sub> (social cost) and it follows the assumption that CO<sub>2</sub> emission is pure externality.<sup>19,20</sup> The indirect utility function is presented as follow

$$V_d = \left[ \frac{I_d}{P_d} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{1 + \left( \mu_d^{-1} \sum_{o=1}^N E_o \right)^2} \right] \dots 4 \text{ Error! Bookmark not defined.}$$

This indirect utility equation shows that social welfare<sup>21</sup> is determined by real income ( $I_d$ ) and environmental damage ( $E_o$ ) to the country.<sup>22</sup> Besides, each country has a different willingness-to-pay for restriction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, this implies that income  $I_d/P_d$  is devoted to get  $\mu_d$  in a country.

## Production

The production function follows iceberg form as follow

$$c_o^j = (\omega_o)^{\beta_o} (p_o^j)^{1-\beta_o} \quad (3)$$

$$p_{od}^j = c_o^j \tau_{od}^j \quad (4)$$

By using Cobb–Douglas Function with the share of labor and intermediate goods, the production cost can be subdivided into wage and the prices of intermediate goods. The product price at destination country d can be divided into the product price and the trade cost. Since the trade cost relates to the product cost follows as a continuous variable, so we use the direct product rather than the Cobb–Douglas Function. Where  $\omega_0$  are wages of the labor,  $p_o^j$  is the price of intermediate,  $c_o^j$  is the production cost  $\omega_0$ : the labor price ( $\beta_j$  is the share of labor)  $p_o^j$ : the price of intermediate goods,  $(1 - \beta_j)$  is the share of intermediate goods  $p_{od}^j$ : the product price at destination country d  $\tau_{od}^j$ : trade cost. Besides, we can add the share of each factor (containing the environment) by following the Cobb–Douglas.

$$\tau_{od}^j = \left( 1 + t_{od}^j \right) \left( 1 + f_{od}^j \right) \exp^{\delta_{od}^j} \quad (5)$$

## Total Trade Cost

$$t_{od}^j = \sum_{m=1}^M D_{odm} k_{odm}^j W_{odm}^j \xi_{m} \gamma_1 \left( t_{odm}^{j,X} + t_{odm}^{j,M} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$f_{od}^j = \sum_{m=1}^M D_{odm} k_{odm}^j W_{odm}^j \xi_{m} \gamma_2 P^{oil} \quad (7)$$

The equations represent that trade cost can be influenced by factors like carbon tax, fuel cost and all types of trade frictions.<sup>23</sup> The trade costs contain the distance between countries  $D_{odm}$ , the share of trade in dollars  $k_{odm}^j$ , the weight-to-value ratio for goods  $W_{odm}^j$ , the fuel efficiency  $\xi_m$ , the carbon tax rate for imports and exports, where  $\gamma$  is the constant term. The total fuel cost  $f_{od}^j$  can be composed by the distance between countries  $D_{odm}$ , the share of trade in dollars  $k_{odm}^j$ , the weight-to-value ratio for goods  $W_{odm}^j$ , the fuel efficiency  $\xi_m$ , the global oil price  $P^{oil}$ , while  $\gamma$  is the constant term. The total cost can be represented by the form  $(1+t)$  and all bilateral trade frictions are combined by using the exponential form given in equation 7.

## Environment

The transitional effect of trade on the environment is illustrated as following

$$E_d = \sum_{o,j} \left( \gamma_3 f_{od}^j + \chi_o^j \right) \frac{X_{od}^j}{P_{od}^j} + \gamma_4 \quad (8)$$

The  $E_d$  is social cost represented by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from country d. It can be divided into fuel, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the transportation sector, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the production sector ( $\gamma_4$ ). Where  $f_{od}^j$  shows the fuel cost per dollar of expenditure,  $\gamma_3$  is tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per dollar of fuel.  $\frac{X_{od}^j}{P_{od}^j}$  presents the units of goods produced in the country o and consumed in-country d.  $\chi_o^j$ : the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of output for sector j in country o.

## Health

Human health is the main factor that affects life expectancy and quality of health ensures the longevity of human life. The health quality of life is determined by various factors including healthcare facilities, income, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The availability of proper healthcare facilities, the income level of the individual could have a positive influence on health quality, while CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have a negative relationship between health quality.

$$CI = 1 - 2 \int_0^1 L(s) ds \quad (9)$$

$$CI = \frac{2}{n\mu} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i R_i - 1 \quad (10)$$

$$y_i = \alpha + \sum_k \beta_k x_{ki} + \varepsilon_i \quad (11)$$

$$CI = \sum_k \left( \frac{\beta_k \bar{x}_k}{\mu} \right) CI_k + \frac{GCI_e}{\mu} \quad (12)$$

Besides the healthcare facility, the equity issue is also one of the main concerns to government stakeholders. To allow the health-income inequality in the model, we follow Van Doorslaer et al<sup>24</sup> concentration index and Lorenz curve. Equation 11 shows the curve in the health quality; it is based on two upper and lower ranges such as 1, -1, with 0 which represents the perfect equality in health quality. The second equation shows a concentration index based on the health score  $y_i$  and health rank  $R_i$ , there is a however negative relationship between health score and health rank. Besides, the effect of health scores is assumed to influence at a slower rate. Equation 3 captures the health score  $y_i$  is determined by health factors  $k_i$  with  $\beta$  coefficients. The equation 4 concentration index represents the health factors  $\beta_k \bar{x}_k$  and generalized concentration index  $GCI_e$ .<sup>25</sup>

### Health Quality and Healthcare Facility

$$H = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{e^f} \right) \ln(f + 1) \quad (13)$$

#### Proposition 1

A part of the income is devoted to healthcare facilities.

This equation demonstrates the relationship between health quality and healthcare facilities, where  $f$  shows the quantity of the social facility and  $H$ : The health quality.<sup>25</sup> Since trade liberalization increases the overall economic income and it is assumed that a part of income is allocated to the healthcare facility. The equation shows that's trade activities initially improve the health quality due to an increase in the income and later it decreases the health quality due to the high environmental cost in terms of pollution particularly the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the production and export sector. However, in the long run, the health quality will remain constant.

### Health Quality and Income

$$H = \frac{2}{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_i^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i^{\frac{1}{n}-1}} + \sum_{i=1}^n g(\xi_i) \Delta x_i - 1 \quad (14)$$

According to the CI in equation 12

$$CI = \frac{2}{n\mu} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i R_i - 1$$

Health quality significantly determined by income; people may spend a sufficient amount on health thus maintain health quality. However, equity in the healthcare sector is the main factor influencing health quality along with income factors. The model uses Van Doorslaer et al<sup>24</sup> concentration index to evaluate the health quality and income holding the inequality factor. The health concentration index contains a healthy score of people ( $y_i$ ), the healthy rank of individual  $R_i$  and income, average of health and income  $g(\xi_i)$ . The equation 16 depicts that health quality positive effect on the health quality keeping constant the inequality healthcare services.

### Health Quality and CO<sub>2</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub> emission linked with four aspects: population, per capita income, energy intensity, and carbon intensity effect.<sup>13</sup> The trade activities increase the CO<sub>2</sub> emission in the economy that consequently leads to an adverse implication on the health quality of society.<sup>26</sup> The Ed is a social cost containing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from country d. using equation 10 the social cost  $E_d$  and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions relationship as follow

$$H = \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3 + \gamma_4}} E_d \quad (15)$$

This equation represents the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have an adverse effect on human health and this exponential form is used as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have a stronger effect on human health. The relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and humans has been testing by various studies including Mohammed et al;<sup>13</sup> Chaabouni and Saidi,<sup>27</sup> Chaabouni et al,<sup>28</sup> de Koeijer et al<sup>29</sup> they found the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions harm human health.

### Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is determined by several factors including "healthy lifestyle, education, body mass index (BMI) and healthcare facilities, and routine diet,,<sup>30</sup>

### Life Expectancy and Healthy Lifestyle

$$L = \frac{\prod_{i=3}^5 \theta_i^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_{i=1}^2 \theta_i^{\beta_i}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-1)^2}{2}} \quad (16)$$

The equation represents a healthy lifestyle and life expectancy. The factor that determines the healthy lifestyle includes the smoking (X1), drinking (X2), physical activities (X3) (excise), good sleep (X4) and proper food (X5).<sup>31</sup> The equation follows the normal distribution and we assumed a mean value 1 unit for all the factors.

Physical activities, good sleep and daily food are positively affecting factors denoted by  $\theta_3\theta_4\theta_5$  respectively. While smoking and drinking negatively influencing factor denoted by  $\theta_1\theta_2$ .  $X$  is taken as average of these factors; the standard normal distribution is used to describe the average of  $X$  and any deviation in these factors is easy to observe by comparing with the mean value of  $X$ .

### Life Expectancy and Education

$$L = \log^x + t \quad (17)$$

Life expectancy depends on the education ( $X$ ) of the individual as education could provide awareness and importance of quality of health.<sup>32</sup> Although education is an important factor however it may not be the primary factor influencing life expectancy therefore, we use log function, while  $t$  is constant shows any change in the function. This equation depicts that education could improve life expectancy by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

### Life Expectancy and BMI

$$L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(m-\mu)^2}{2}} \quad (18)$$

The body mass index (BMI) is used to measure the height and weight of the individuals.  $t$  shows the total number of the people, it calculated by taking the ratio of weight in Kilogram) to the height (in meters) of individuals. For adults, an ideal BMI is in the 18.5 to 24.9 range. This depicts that if the individual BMI ratio exists at the rate of 18.5 to 24.9 then it following the health status and improved life expectancy. Since it is symmetric in the interval between [18.5, 24.9] therefore for equation 20 we use the normal distribution to measure the BMI, and confidence interval provides information of variations in BMI.

### Life Expectancy and Facilities

$$L = \left(1 - \frac{1}{f^2}\right) \ln(f + 1) \quad (19)$$

Where  $f$  shows the healthcare facilities including availability of doctors, hospitals and medical units, etc. and  $L$  shows the life expectancy. The health care facility is the primary determinant of life expectancy. The increase in healthcare facilities increases the life expectancy of the individual.<sup>33</sup> This equation depicts the with no healthcare facility a low level of life expectancy is observed. Health quality increases with the increase of social facilities. It is assumed that a healthcare facility holds a diminishing

marginal rate property, which implies that it increases the life expectancy to a certain level and it does not improve the life expectancy beyond a specific level.

### Life Expectancy and Income

$$L = \frac{2}{n\mu} \log \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_i^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i^{\frac{1}{n}-1}} + S(D, I) - s(D, I) \quad (20)$$

Where  $\mu$  shows the mean healthy score, health rate index of individual  $R_i$   $K$  parameters, Income index, and  $D$  are the domain of income function. Income is the most influencing factor that affects health as well as health quality. The equation presents a significantly larger impact on health quality compare with life expectancy. The equation depicts individual life expectancy as an additive function to human health with then rises positively affecting life expectancy.<sup>25</sup>

### Life Expectancy and Diet

$$L = \frac{C^{\beta_o} N^{1-\beta_o}}{se^s - 1} \quad (21)$$

The diet is one important factor affecting life expectancy, the calories level ( $C$ ) and nutrition ( $N$ ) has a positive effect on life expectancy while smoking ( $se^s$ ) has a negative effect on life expectancy.<sup>34</sup> The function follows the Cobb–Douglas function and  $\beta_j$  is the share of calories. Besides, the exponential form of denominator factors indicates that smoking could have a wider effect as compare to nominator factors.

Now Combining the health and environment factors in life expectancy equation as

$$L = f(\text{Environment factors, Health factors})$$

$$L = \Pi \left[ \frac{2}{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_i^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i^{\frac{1}{n}-1}} + \sum_{i=1}^n g(\xi_i) \Delta x_i - 1 \right]^{1-\alpha} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^f}\right) \ln(f + 1) \right]^{1-\beta} \left[ \frac{c_1 c_2}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} p^{\frac{n}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{p}{2}} \right]^{2-2\gamma} \left[ \left(\frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} E_d\right)^{1-\delta} \right] \Pi \left[ \frac{2}{n\mu} \log \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_i^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i^{\frac{1}{n}-1}} + S(D, I) - s(D, I) \right]^{\alpha} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{1}{f^2}\right) \ln(f + 1) \right]^{\beta} \left[ \frac{c_1 c_2}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} p^{\frac{n}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{p}{2}} \right]^{2\gamma} \left( \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} E_d \right)^{\delta} \quad (22)$$

The equation 24 presents the life expectancy is determined by environmental and health factors. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the main responsible factor for degrading health quality



which resulted in lower life expectancy. However, trade activities raise the income of the people which allocated to maintain health leading to improves the health quality and thereby increase the life expectancy. However, the net effect of trade on life expectancy primarily depends on the rise in income and environmental cost (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). The trade and life expectancy equation could be further extended to the developing and developed country cases.

## Developed Countries

$$L = \log^x + t + \frac{\prod_{i=3}^5 \theta_i^{\alpha_i}}{\prod_{i=1}^2 \theta_i^{\beta_i}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(z-1)^2}{2}} + cp$$

$$+ \Pi \left[ \frac{2}{\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_n^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i \frac{1}{n} - 1} + \sum_{i=1}^n g(\xi_i) \Delta x_i - 1 \right]^{1-\alpha}$$

$$\left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f} \right) \ln(f+1) \right]^{1-\beta} \left[ \frac{c_1 c_2}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} p^{\frac{n}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{p}{2}} \right]^{2-2\gamma}$$

$$\left[ \left( \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} \right)^{1-\delta} \right] \Pi \left[ \frac{2}{n\mu} \log \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_n^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i \frac{1}{n} - 1} + S(D, I) - s(D, I) \right]^{\alpha} \quad (23)$$

$$\left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f^2} \right) \ln(f+1) \right]^{\beta} \left[ \frac{c_1 c_2}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} p^{\frac{n}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{p}{2}} \right]^{2\gamma}$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} E_d \right)^{\delta}$$

The developed countries may have diverse effects as compared to the developing countries due to differences in economic, political, and institutional structure. Since developed economies gain from the trade by better utilization of their resources that sufficiently compete for the country's imports. For developed countries, we consider education, healthy lifestyle, income, social facilities, pharmaceutical, health quality and CO<sub>2</sub> emission, health expenditures, and institution quality factors that determine life expectancy. Know that health quality contains health-care facilities, income, and CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions, we added some additional factors that differentiating the developed countries from developing countries. Since developed countries assumed to allocated sufficient funds for the health expenditures healthcare expenditures denoted by C1 and developing countries have the quality of institution denoted by C2 for the implementation of health policy. Lastly, we combine these factors in the life expectancy equation by following Cobb-Douglas function and the share of each factor represents by 1- $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha$ , 1- $\beta$ ,  $\beta$ , 1- $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma$ , 1- $\delta$  and  $\delta$ . The logarithm form of the life expectancy equation could be expressed as

$$\log a^{i_1} b^{i_2} = i_1 \log a + i_2 \log b \quad (24)$$

Since the Cobb-Douglas function is widely used in economies and convenient to differentiate the effect of each factor by using the partial derivative function. The partial derivative could be used to differentiate each influence on life expectancy. For example, the  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial c_1}$  and  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial c_2}$  provide any change in health expenditure (c1) and change in institution quality (c2). The "facility related to life expectancy" and facility-related to health quality can be represented by logarithm form as

$$\log \ln(f+1) + (1-\beta) \log \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f} \right) + \beta \log \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f^2} \right) \quad (25)$$

Preposition 2: Developing countries allocate sufficient funds to the health sector (C1) and have a good quality of institutions.

## Developing Countries

The developed countries may have diverse economic, political and institutional structures as compared to developing countries.<sup>35</sup> It is assumed that developing countries do not sufficiently contribute to the world market, nevertheless, the success of trade gains depends on the volume of exports against the volume of imports. In our model, we assumed developing and developed countries gains from the trade equally.

$$L = \log^x + t + \frac{C^{\beta_o} N^{1-\beta_o}}{se^s - 1} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(m-1)^2}{2}}$$

$$+ \Pi \left[ \frac{2}{\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_n^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i \frac{1}{n} - 1} + \sum_{i=1}^n g(\xi_i) \Delta x_i - 1 \right]^{1-\alpha}$$

$$\left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f} \right) \ln(f+1) \right]^{1-\beta} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} \right)^{1-\delta} \right] \quad (26)$$

$$\Pi \left[ \frac{2}{n\mu} \log \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{k_n^{\frac{1}{n}}}{R_i \frac{1}{n} - 1} + S(D, I) - s(D, I) \right]^{\alpha}$$

$$\left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f^2} \right) \ln(f+1) \right]^{\beta} \left( \frac{1}{e^{\gamma_3+\gamma_4}} E_d \right)^{\delta}$$

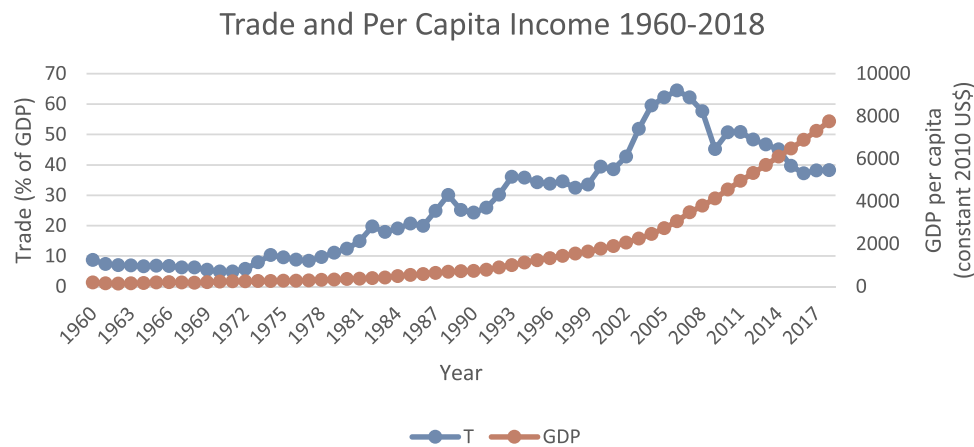
For developing countries, we omit C1 and C2 factors; as developing, economies spent a small amount on health expenditures (c1) and having poor institutions quality (2). We consider education, BMI index, diet, income, social facilities, health quality and CO<sub>2</sub> emission factors in the developing country case. The Cobb-Douglas function is used to combine these factors and share of each factor form as 1- $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha$ , 1- $\beta$ ,  $\beta$ , 1- $\delta$ , and  $\delta$ . The data of the relevant variables are obtained from the World Bank online.

## Trade, CO<sub>2</sub> and Life Expectancy in China

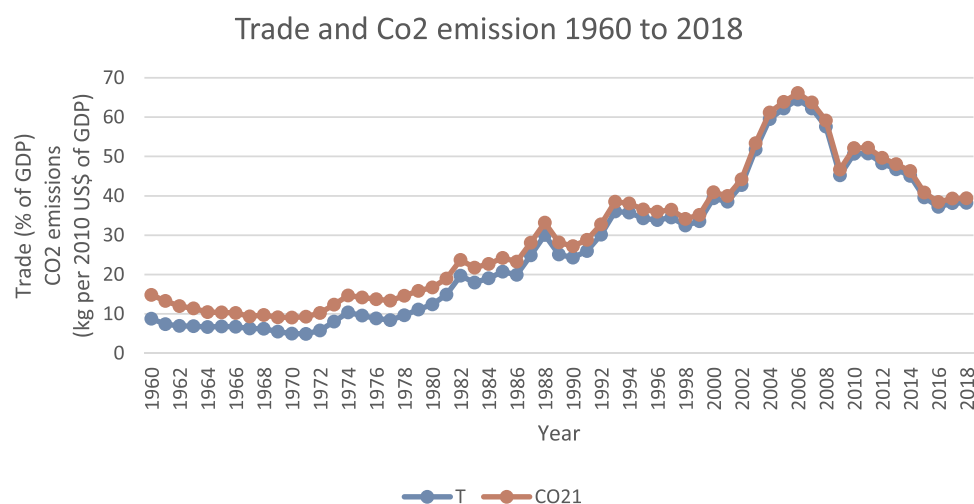
China has adopted Trade Openness in 2002 and made various trade reforms in history such as the open-door policy was initiated in 1978 to move the economy towards marketization and integration with the world market. In the early 1980s, China allowed a few foreign firms to operate in specific zones, and gradually reduces tariff from 1992 to 1996, most of the trade policies were import-competing. China's export sectors were far ahead of its reform for its import-competing industries during the early 1990s and various export subsidies have suspended.<sup>36</sup> Besides other trade barriers, for example, import quotas and permits, authorization has been removed. China finally signs WTO in 2002 and a significant increase in the share of trade in the world. According to the Center for Strategic and World Bank (2015) the share of

China in exports is 13.45% in 2015 and attained double digits economic growth for the decade. Trade brings a substantial improvement in the income of the people and Figure 1 presents the trade openness and per capita income from 1960 to 2018. The per capita income was observed with a constant increase while trade shows a dynamic trend. The dynamic trend may result due to different factors including exchange rate, international recession. For example, during 2007–2008 there is a downward in trade which mainly resulted due to 2007 financial crises.

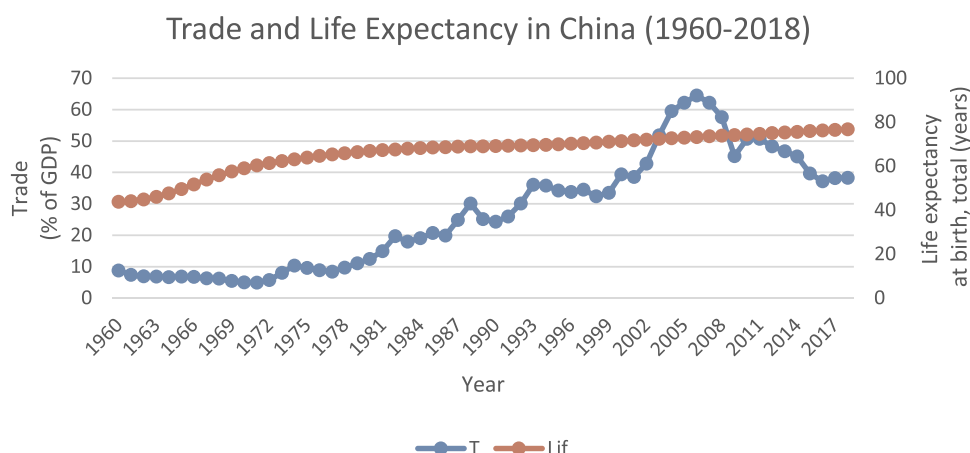
Figures 2 and 3 represent the trade trend with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and life expectancy, respectively. Trade activities are main especially industrial production as it accounts for 40.5% contribution in domestic production during 2017. This implies that industrial production major contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in China. Figure 2 shows the trend between



**Figure 1** Trade and per capita income 1960–2018.  
**Note:** World Bank Development.



**Figure 2** Trade and CO<sub>2</sub> emission 1960 to 2018.



**Figure 3** Trade and life expectancy in China (1960–2018).

trade and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and there is a direct and increasing trend between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and trade. The overall increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emission with trade expansion indicates that trade activities main responsible factor for the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in China. In 2008 a downward trend both in trade and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions occurred due to the international financial crisis the rest of the period shows a continuously increasing trend. Air pollution could have significant implications for human health and mortality. According to Ji et al<sup>37</sup> there were 7426 deaths reported due to air pollution between 2008 and 2014. Thus, on one hand, this graph depicts that trade contributed to human mortality by increasing pollution, while on the other hand, an increase in income from the trade could lead to attaining a high level of life expectancy. Figure 3 depicts trade and life expectancy trends, it shows the continuous constant increasing trend, while trade follows a dynamic trend. Trade has a dynamic effect on life expectancy which depends primarily on relative income effect and environmental effect, the net effect could provide a clearer scenario. According to Wu et al<sup>38</sup> PM<sub>2.5</sub> potentially reduces the life expectancy in the urban population in China during 2013–2017.

## Methodology and Model

We use the following model empirical analysis

$$Lif = f(T, GDP, Co2)$$

Where ....

T is denoting trade

Lif is the life expectancy

GDP shows GDP per capita

CO<sub>2</sub> is the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ... GDP ....CO<sub>2</sub> ...

## Methodology

This section provides the method, which we are applying for the analysis, we adopted the regime-switching regression method for the analysis. Conventionally, liner regressions consider a primary tool for data analysis, however, there is considerable evidence of nonlinear modeling, especially when dealing with the macroeconomic analysis that is subject to regime change. Whereas nonlinearities arise from a discrete change in regime shift. In economic history, switching regimes models have been discussed by various researchers including Goldfeld and Quandt,<sup>39</sup> Maddala,<sup>40</sup> Hamilton and Susmel<sup>41</sup> Frühwirth-Schnatter.<sup>42</sup> Suppose that the time-varying variable  $\mathcal{Y}_t$  follows a process that depends on the value of an unobserved discrete state variable  $\mathcal{S}_t$  and there are M possible regimes in the system, where state in line with regime m in t period when  $\mathcal{S}_t = m$ , where  $m = 1, \dots, M$ . It is assumed that there are different regressions related to each regime. Suppose  $X_t$  and  $Z_t$  are the regressors and conditional mean  $m$  assumed to follow a linear specification;

$$\mu_t(m) = X_t' \beta_m + Z_t' \gamma \quad (27)$$

Where  $\beta_m$  and  $\gamma$  are the coefficients for the  $k_X$  and  $k_Z$  vectors, the coefficient  $\beta_m$  is associated with regime change while  $\gamma$  is associated with  $Z_t$  and regime invariant. Furthermore, it is assumed that errors terms of the regressions are normally distributed

$$Y_t = \mu_t(m) + \sigma(m)\epsilon_t \quad (28)$$

The error term  $\epsilon_t$  is assumed normally distributed and the standard deviation of each error term depends on specific regime  $m$ .



The likelihood can be formed by weighting the density function in each regime calculated by one step ahead probability in the specific regime.

$$L_t(\beta, \gamma, \sigma, \delta) = \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{\sigma_m} \phi\left(\frac{y_t - \mu_t(m)}{\sigma(m)}\right) \cdot P(S_t = m | \vartheta_{t-1}, \delta)$$

Error! Bookmark not defined.

$\beta = (\beta_1 \dots \beta_M)$ ,  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_M)$  and  $\delta$  determines the regimes probabilities,  $\vartheta_{t-1}$  represents information set in period  $t-1$ , while  $\phi$  shows the standard normal density function. The full Maximum normal mixture can be presented in equation 3 that maximizes  $\beta, \gamma, \sigma, \delta$  as follow

$$l_t(\beta, \gamma, \sigma, \delta) = \sum_{t=1}^T \log \left\{ \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{\sigma_m} \phi\left(\frac{y_t - \mu_t(m)}{\sigma(m)}\right) \cdot P(S_t = m | \vartheta_{t-1}, \delta) \right\}$$

... Error! Bookmark not defined.

The regime probabilities are  $P(S_t = m | \vartheta_{t-1}, \delta)$  could be possible constant and varying values, for the constant values we could simply add additional parameters in the likelihood 4. For varying probabilities, we assume  $P(m)$  function of vectors of exogenous observables  $G_{t-1}$  and the coefficient parameters by using multinomial logit specification.

$$P(S_t = m | \vartheta_{t-1}, \delta) = p_m(G_{t-1}, \delta) = \frac{\exp\left(G_{t-1}' \delta_m\right)}{\sum_{j=1}^M \exp\left(G_{t-1}' \delta_j\right)} \quad (29)$$

The standard deviation  $\delta = (\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \dots, \delta_m)$ , with the identifying normalization,  $\delta_m = 0$ . The special case of constant probabilities is handling by choosing  $(G_{t-1})$  to be identically equal to 1. In addition, we are taking two regimes, one pre-trade openness regime and the second is a post-trade openness regime and it exhibits implication of trade openness before and after trade openness in China for the life expectancy. Besides we will use some robustness checks such as standard Ganger causality and net effect model to further verify the baseline regime-switching estimations. The data for the relevant variables are obtained from the World Bank database for the period 1960–2018, which is freely available.

## Results and Discussion

### Baseline Estimations

This section provides the contains results and detailed discussion estimated by regime-switching regression. We constructed two regimes, first regimes contain estimations

before the trade openness regime while second regimes show after the trade openness regimes. Table 1 presents descriptive statistics results; life expectancy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have a negative association, life expectancy with GDP reported a positive relationship with coefficient sign 0.64 and trade and life expectancy also found with a positive association.

Table 2 presents the switching regime regression results; there are two regimes and each regime contains its coefficients with relevant significance. In the first regime, which is the pre-trade era the per capita GDP positively affects life expectancy at 1% level of significance. This indicates that with the rise in income level the life expectancy tends to increase and people adopt a healthy lifestyle and hold more income spend to maintain healthy life that resultantly leads to an increase the life expectancy. This confirms the Weixiang and Yu<sup>43</sup> findings as to the rise of income help people to attain health gains in China and thereby improving life expectancy. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are reported insignificant influence on life expectancy, this indicates that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have not main influence on the determination of life expectancy in the pre-trade liberalization in China. Moreover, this also indicates that fewer emissions are observed before the trade openness regime due to the lower level of industrial expansion in the country that does not influence life expectancy. Trade openness is insignificant at 5% level which implies that trade do not affect life expectancy in the pre-trade openness regime. It also indicates that there was a low level of trade activities including industrial production that leads to a low level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Also, the low level of trade activities also does not contribute to the people's income which confirms the insignificant association between trade and life expectancy. The second regime which is post-trade liberalization reveals interesting findings and implications of trade openness for life expectancy. In second regime GDP still hold significant implication for the life expectancy and GDP coefficient is significant at 5% level. This indicates that a rise in the income people leads to attaining good health which

**Table 1** Descriptive Statistics

	CO <sub>2</sub>	GDP	LIF	T
CO <sub>2</sub>	1	-0.7648	-0.7712	-0.87086
GDP	-0.7648	1	0.64951	0.70371
LIF	-0.7711	0.64951	1	0.7685
T	-0.8709	0.70371	0.7685	1

**Table 2** Regime Switching Regression Results

Dependent Variable: LIF			
Variable	Coefficient		
Regime 1			
C	66.6249*** (6.3967)		
GDP	0.0008*** (0.0003)		
CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.7390 (1.1512)		
T	0.11431 (0.0955)		
Regime 2			
C	64.7219*** (5.3628)		
GDP	0.00130* (0.00057)		
CO2	-3.96390*** (0.95648)		
T	0.18461** (0.06057)		
Common			
LOG(SIGMA)	0.5977 (0.1098)		
Probabilities Parameters			
PI-C	1.1683*** (0.4446)		
Mean dependent var	66.37861	S.D. dependent var	8.907577
S.E. of regression	6.001941	Sum squared resid	1801.165
Durbin-Watson stat	0.024875	Log likelihood	-140.6196
Akaike info criterion	5.105749	Schwarz criterion	5.457874
Hannan-Quinn criter.	5.243204		

Notes: \*\*\*Significant at 1%. \*\*Significant at 5%. \*Significant at 10%.

improves life expectancy, however unlike the first regime the GDP significant level move from 1% to 5%, which indicates the influence of other explanatory variables on life expectancy. CO<sub>2</sub> has a negative and significant effect on life expectancy at 1% level, which implies that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have adverse implications for human health that lead to lower life expectancy. This study supports previous findings such as Ullah et al<sup>7</sup>, Ullah et al<sup>8</sup>, Hansen and Selte<sup>44</sup>, Apergis et al<sup>45</sup>, Ullah et al<sup>7</sup> and Ullah et al.<sup>8,46</sup> Trade-in second regime positively affects life expectancy at 1% level of significance, which implies that trade activities could improve the income of the people that further use to maintain a good living standard and adopt a healthy lifestyle which increases life expectancy. Besides the positive effect of trade on life expectancy trade could also contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions may adversely affect human

health and life expectancy. Therefore, we need a further robustness test to know the extend of trade effect on the life expectancy. We are using standard Granger causality test and net effect model for the further verification of our bassline outcomes. In addition, Table 3 contains diagnostic test of the regime switching regression. Wald Test is used as diagnostic test, which shows that trade openness could cause life expectancy.

## Diagnostic Tests

Table 3 Diagnostic Test.

## Robustness Test

Table 4 reports a standard causality outcome for our baseline model. The regression model shows a one-way effect among the variables. However, there is a possibility that variables may have a bidirectional effect besides, the causality test further validates our bassline estimations. The causality test found no causality between GDP and CO<sub>2</sub>, which implies GDP per capita does not increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There is bidirectional causality between CO<sub>2</sub> causes life expectancy which supports the baseline results implying the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have adverse implications on human health. There is unidirectional causality from trade openness to CO<sub>2</sub>

**Table 3** Wald Test

Chi-square	163.8480	I	0.0000
Chi-square	193.2094	I	0.0000
Chi-square	163.8480	I	0.0000
Chi-square	193.2094	I	0.0000

**Table 4** Pairwise Granger Causality Tests

Null Hypothesis	F-Statistic	Prob.
GDP does not Granger Cause CO <sub>2</sub>	1.17565	0.3167
CO <sub>2</sub> does not Granger Cause GDP	0.85768	0.4301
LIF does not Granger Cause CO <sub>2</sub>	15.9387	4.0806
CO <sub>2</sub> does not Granger Cause LIF	45.5105	4.0912
T does not Granger Cause CO <sub>2</sub>	4.32714	0.0183
CO <sub>2</sub> does not Granger Cause T	0.93684	0.3984
LIF does not Granger Cause GDP	0.74092	0.4816
GDP does not Granger Cause LIF	29.3238	3.0209
T does not Granger Cause GDP	6.52872	0.0030
GDP does not Granger Cause T	1.27742	0.2874
T does not Granger Cause LIF	23.9148	4.8708
LIF does not Granger Cause T	1.38306	0.2599

emissions, which confirms our switching regression results. Besides, this implies that trade openness leads to the industrial expansion that emits a high volume of CO<sub>2</sub>, the CO<sub>2</sub> and trade results are supported by past studies including Ullah et al<sup>7</sup> and Ullah et al<sup>8</sup> and argued that trade activities lead to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to industrial and export sector expansion. A unidirectional causality is found from GDP to life expectancy that indicates this supports our baseline findings and that per capita income causes the life expectancy. We also found a unidirectional causality from trade to GDP which implies that trade increases the per capita income in China. These findings support of theoretical model where trade openness is assumed to increase the per capita income. Finally, there we found a unidirectional causality from trade to life expectancy, which verifies our baseline regime-switching regression results and indicates that trade expansion leads to attaining a high level of life expectancy and GDP per capita is the main channel that could lead to improve the life expectancy.

Table 5 shows the trade effect on life expectancy, two separate models since our theoretical model shows that trade could affect life expectancy from two ways one is income effect and the other is the environment or CO<sub>2</sub> effect. This test verifies our theoretical model and further validates our baseline regime-switching regression results. Table 5 results contain two estimations; one is the net effect (income increase minus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) with trade, we choose net effect as the dependent variable while trade openness as independent variables, our results show that trade has positive and significant effects on the net effect variable, this implies that trade income effect is comparatively larger than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or in other

words trade increases income more than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This verifies the income Granger causality test where trade causes per capita GDP and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. First we found a positive net effect of trade now we test the net effect in the life expectancy model. The second estimations in Table 5 contain the results of effect variable (income effect minus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) and trade on the life expectancy, we found that both trade and net effect variables have positive and significant implications for the life expectancy at 1% and 10% level of significance. This shows that life expectancy increases due to trade, and despite the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions trade have a relatively greater income on income due to the trade expansion which resulted in a positive implication of trade for life expectancy. These results are in line with baseline regime-switching regression and granger causality outcomes. Overall our findings suggest a positive implication for the trade openness for the life expectancy from both baseline model estimation robustness tests which also in line with the theoretical model of this study.

## Conclusion

Trade liberalization has a diverse effect on the economy, environment, it improves the country's exports, stimulates industrial production, and increases aggregate consumption. Besides the positive effect of trade, it has associated costs for society in terms of pollution particularly an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Among the other pollutants, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are more straightforward, the production and export expansion especially post-trade liberalization leads to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which adversely affect human health and life expectancy. Therefore, this study provides a theoretical framework for trade liberalization and life expectancy association, which is tested empirically for China using the period 1960–2018. We used regime-switching regression for the baseline model, while Granger causality and OLS with some additional specification are used as robustness tests. Our findings suggest that trade increases life expectancy, which is supported by Granger causality and OLS results. This implies that trade affects life expectancy in two ways; firstly, trade increases the overall income of the society which helps people to maintain health quality and thus improve life expectancy. Secondly, environmental degradation in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions imposes a health cost, which leads to reduces life expectancy. The net effect of trade on life expectancy depends on the increase of both income and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Nonetheless, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the main channel through which trade liberalization could affect life

**Table 5** Dependent Variable: Net Effect

Variable	Coefficient		
C	-476.7903 (325.6133)		
T	61.33334*** (10.04864)		
R-squared	0.395254	F-statistic	37.25446
Adjusted R-squared	0.384645	Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000
Dependent Variable: LIF			
Variable	Coefficient		
C	56.6046*** (1.35390)		
EFFECT	0.000966 (0.00054)*		
T	0.31975** (0.05275)		
R-squared	0.612602	F-statistic	44.27713
Adjusted R-squared	0.598767	Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000

**Notes:** \*\*\*Significant at 1%. \*\*Significant at 5%. \*Significant at 10%.

expectancy. Trade activities are responsible for environmental degradation which leads to a negative implication on human health resulted in a low level of life expectancy. It is recommended that trade liberalization should be embodied with certain environmental protection policies, for example, carbon tax could mitigate the negative effect of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the economy. The adaptation of renewable energy resources along with trade liberalization policies may also offset the environmental cost of trade and improves life expectancy. Besides, the trade effect in developing and developed countries depends on the economic structure and healthcare facilities to compensate for the trade effect on human health and life expectancy.

The results derived from this study have some important policy implications. The key findings suggest that trade openness contributes to life expectancy significantly in China. Hence, the government should use trade openness as economic tools not only for enhancing domestic production but also for improving health of its massive population. Therefore, we recommend that policymakers should introduce more trade liberalization friendly policies that will ensure the maximum economic and social benefits. Moreover, foreign affiliates should largely invest in hospital and pharmaceutical sectors by bringing modern know-how and technology from their host countries which will directly benefit to the public health of the host countries.

This study has some limitations as it covers a single country which could be extended for multiple countries in the future, however, the empirical outcomes may be varied for the different countries to the difference in economic structure across the different countries.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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