Reviewer's report

Title: Does Council Tax Valuation Band (CTVB) Correlate with Under-Privileged Area 8 (UPA8) Score and Could It Be A Better “Jarman Index”?

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Reviewer: Prof George Davey-Smith

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

This short paper reports worthwhile data on the association between council tax valuation band in the UK and the Jarman index. It would only be of interest to UK readers, but even given this some more details need to be given about both council tax valuation bands (how it is measured, what it means, and what it functions for) and Jarman score.

Correlation coefficients are presented between the CTVB and Jarman, with p values, but it would be more informative to give confidence intervals around these correlation coefficients.

The study is carried out within one general practice. A discussion needs to be given about whether council tax valuation bands would have any meaning when comparing between areas, as well as within areas. If it only has value within areas then its use for, for example, resource allocation is severely limited. What is the evidence that has any meaning between areas?

In reference 7, Ben-Shlomo is spelt wrongly.

Competing interests:
None declared.