Reviewer's report

Title: Health problems among detainees in Switzerland: a study using the ICPC-2 classification

Version: 4 Date: 10 March 2011

Reviewer: Matthew Hiller

Reviewer's report:

The authors have carefully considered and addressed all revisions suggested in the first round of reviews. This has significantly strengthened the paper, and it is now recommended for publication.

Only 2 comments, which can be labeled as discretionary revisions, remain. 1. It is unfortunate that more comprehensive comparative data were not available for the general population of Switzerland. This appears attributable to the lack of governmental monitoring of public health problems. Does the World Health Organization have any data on the European Union that could be useful for comparison? 2. The large proportion of immigrants in Swiss prisons is very interesting. It would be of interest to note whether similar trends are evident in other European Union nations. Also, given that large blocks of incarcerated immigrants appear to come from eastern Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East, and Sub-saharan Africa, and given that some regions have higher prevalence rates for certain disorders (e.g., HIV in subsaharan Africa) it would be interesting to further disaggregate the sample to determine whether similar trends are evident in immigrant groups from these regions. It might show that country of origin could serve as a rough decision-making criterion for ordering additional health screening.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.