Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of disease in Thailand: changes in health gap between 1999 and 2004

Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2010

Reviewer: Michael Linnan

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. While there are minor grammatical errors, (mainly verb tense, and plural choice) the English is easily comprehended. There is only typographical error noted, in the 5th sentence, first para in discussions section, there needs to be a space inserted between 8% and than.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The report primarily is a descriptive one and the authors do a good job in providing necessary information to the reader who is familiar with burden of disease studies and the methodology. The authors noted some changes between the previous BOD study in Thailand in 1999 and a second follow-on study in 2004. They discuss changes in some of the data sources and other pieces of information that feed into the calculations of the BOD in 2004. There is little commentary or discussion about whether the observed changes between 1999 and 2004 are due to actual substantive changes in epidemiology or whether it is due to improvements or changes in the data available for the 2004 assessment. It would be informative to those readers not familiar with Thailand to have some discussion regarding this.

2. Given the enormous amount of resources that have been used to develop the capacity for BOD studies in Thailand as well as the decade long time frame the activity has been underway, the authors should point out the impact that the BOD activity has had using examples of national health policy, or at least point to specific changes in national health policy that have occurred as a result of the effort in Thailand.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

I declare that I have no competing interests