Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of modifiable risk factors on geographic mortality differentials: a modelling study

Version: 3 Date: 18 November 2011

Reviewer: Shaun Scholes

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded well to my previous comments. However, the reference formatting needs to be changed as the references in square brackets need to be placed before the full stop.

Discretionary revisions

1. Could you remind the readers in Table 1 that the survey year was 1999-2000. Same point also applies to Table 5.

2. Sub-headings for the "modelling the effect of risk factors on inter-regional mortality differentials" section would be very useful to the reader:
   baseline average potential years of life
   scenario average potential years of life

3. Could "high cholesterol" rather than "cholesterol" be used in all instances in the results section (risk factor prevalence).

4. Could axis titles be given in Figures 1 and 2.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 that I have no competing interests.