Reviewer's report

Title: Morbid obesity in women on the rise: an observational, population-based study.

Version: 1 Date: 28 January 2013

Reviewer: David Faeh

Reviewer’s report:

I commend you for your effort but have the following concerns:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The paper lacks of consistency. E.g., some results are only given in the abstract but not in the table or are not given at all.

2. The conclusions drawn by the authors are not supported by the results. Results on mean BMI are only given in the abstract, the table in contrast shows only median BMI with IQR. There is no information on statistical tests used to assess differences in BMI categories. The obtained figures are thus largely over-interpreted. The authors could use logistic regression to examine variation between the two measurement points. This would also allow adjustment for confounders such as education or nationality. A plot of the two BMI distributions could also be helpful.

3. Moreover it may be wrong to infer a trend based on only two measurement points. Would it be possible to add measurements before 1993 and/or after 2008?

4. Considering socioeconomic status is important. However, it is not clear why and how the authors come to the conclusion that increase has occurred in all SES strata.

5. There should be more information on the two populations, e.g. sampling procedure, distribution.

6. It is impossible to interpret the SMR. What was the endpoint? Which disease have been considered? Which were the SMR of the other BMI classes? What is the unit? Incidence? Per personyears? If no further information can be provided, the SMR should be dropped because it is not in the focus of the paper, i.e. change in prevalence.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The authors may be interested in the following publications

Excess weight in the canton of Zurich, 1992-2009: harbinger of a trend reversal in Switzerland?
Faeh D, Bopp M.
Swiss Med Wkly. 2010 Sep 1;140:w13090

Faeh D, Braun J, Bopp M.

Obesity in Switzerland: do estimates depend on how body mass index has been assessed?
Faeh D, Marques-Vidal P, Chiolero A, Bopp M.

- Discretionary Revisions

Please use the term "normal weight" instead of "ideal weight". Normal weight may not be "ideal", e.g. in terms of mortality risk.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests