Reviewer’s report

Title: Quantifying the burden of disease due to premature mortality in Hong Kong using Standard Expected Years of Life Lost

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2013

Reviewer: Jalal Poorolajal

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract
1. The abstract is too long (353 words.), it should be shorted to at most 250 words.
2. Keywords should be replaced with MeSH terms.

Methods
3. Time series analysis was not explained in the method section.
4. The method of calculation and analysis of "age-weighting and time-discounting scenarios" was not explained. What is the difference between the scenarios? What is the meaning of numbers in front of the scenarios in Figure 5.

Results
5. Too many figures and tables have been presented which is unusual for a scientific paper and has to be decreased in number.
6. The results are rather duplicated in the main text and figures. The explanations should be shortened with minimum statistics.
7. In Table 1, what is the meaning of "rate per 100,000"? The rate of what thing has been calculated? How was it calculated? What is the numerator and what is the denominator?
8. The title of Figure 2 does not explain the three graphs. In other word, the variables that distinguish the three graphs are not stated.
9. The six graphs in Figure 4 can be merged in a single graph combining both sexes.
10. The figure should have no border line and no grid lines

Discussions
11. The results of the following paper may be useful for comparing the results.
12. The limitation of the study should be stated.
Conclusion
13. The conclusion should be derived from the study results. Thus, no reference should be used in the conclusion section. The results of other studies and other evidences should be moved to the discussion section.

References
14. The abbreviated form of the journal names should be uses throughout.
15. Reference #13, #14, #29, #33, #34, #38, and #39 need revision.
16. About 21 out of 39 references are older than 5 years.

Typographical errors
Page 2, Line 2: "are" should be replaced with "is".
Page 4, Line 21: "International Statistical Classification of Diseases" should be replace with "International Classification of Diseases"

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
Nothing