Reviewer’s report

Title: Decreasing trends in cardiovascular mortality in Turkey between 1988 and 2008

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2013

Reviewer: Altan Onat

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In this statistical study that aims to assess the temporal trends of cardiovascular mortality in Turkey, little seems to have been addressed regarding concerns I made.

1. The request of stating the crude overall (and cardiovascular) deaths in Turkey was not specifically addressed, stating that these figures “were not available for rural areas”. The available figures can be stated.

2. In addition, the newly provided Appendix Table 3, which lacks the unit of the values given, but which represents percentages as can be judged from the text, discloses that over 50% to 60% of the reported urban deaths during the entire period studied was classified as “other heart diseases” or “symptoms/senility”. This obviously leaves huge margin of inaccuracy in the overall evaluation.

3. The response to my comments on the reduction overnight in 2007 by over 4% of the Turkish population does not clarify the “accuracy” of the demographic and vital statistics.

4. Methodological differences evidently exist between official statistical data on mortality and those elicited in the TARF study, but the annual CHD mortality, especially of 23,000 for women that I estimated from your data is far too low compared with estimates in the TARF. This is likely due to the high prevalence of heart failure among Turkish women with CHD.

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 have no competing interest.