Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular risk factors differ between rural and urban Sweden. The 2009 Northern Sweden MONICA cohort

Version: 1 Date: 2 June 2014

Reviewer: Saman Khalesi

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Overall well-written and discussed manuscript. The following suggestions are to improve the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) In the abstract the authors mentioned that the aim of the study is to "investigate the risk factors in urban and rural populations in northern Sweden", where in the 'Background and aim' it is stated "Our aim was to determine if the difference between rural and urban populations persists in the latest data from MONICA 2009, taking differences in age, gender and education level into account". While the comparison made between the 1999 MONICA report and the 2009 study is interesting, it needs to be clear that the aim of the study is to investigate the risk factors (of cardiovascular disease) or to compare the results of this study with the previous one. If both, need to be stated in the abstract.

2) While the confident interval is reported for the odds ratios in table 3, the mean values of CVD risk factors at table 1 lack measure of variability (SD or SE). It is highly recommended that in comparative population studies the measure of variability is mentioned for mean.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests