Reviewer's report

Title: RiskDiff: a web tool for the analysis of the difference due to risk and demographic factors for incidence or mortality data

Version: 2 Date: 6 October 2009

Reviewer: Pierre Goovaerts

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Minor Essential Revisions

This paper describes the web-based application of a rather simplistic equation to separate the impact of population growth (change in size and age structure) from other factors that are pooled under the term “risk”. Yet, there is nothing wrong with simplicity. It would however be useful for the readers to clarify the link between the method described in this paper and the Standardized Mortality Ratios and Age-adjusted rates that are commonly used by epidemiologists. An additional issue is whether the observed differences are significant or not. In absence of any statistical model, it is unclear how this type of hypothesis could be tested using the proposed equation.

The URL for the website that is reported in the abstract is wrong: http://rht.iconcological.net/riskdiff.htm. The last letter l in "iconcological" must be deleted.

I would recommend that both the paper and the wording on the Webpage be checked by a native speaker to make sure that the English is reasonably good enough for an international audience. For example, the warning “THIS PROCESS MAY TAKE SEVERAL TIME” should be rewritten. It would also be useful to provide information on the format required for the data text files, or at least mention that the data files posted online should be used as templates.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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