Reviewer’s report

Title: Community characteristics that attract physicians: A cross-sectional analysis of community demographic and economic factors in Japan

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Reviewer: HIDETO TAKAHASHI

Reviewer’s report:

This cross-sectional study tried to clarify what demographic and economic factors appeal to medical doctors in Japan. Its contribution is in informing readers about the present imbalance (clinic locations, the number of medical doctors per unit population, etc) and the relationship between the number of medical doctors per unit population and other municipality-related characteristic values. It fails, however, to help readers accurately understand the authors’ intention. The authors need to provide more detailed descriptions of the basic characteristics of the data concerning their variables.

Major Comments:
The English in the draft has many unclear sentences and therefore is not to an international level.

It is obvious that the more population a municipality gains, the more medical doctors it has. If the authors consider population size as one of the appealing factors in a municipality for medical doctors’ choice of location in which to open their clinics, they should choose the number of medical doctors per unit population from the beginning. The analysis of the factors concerning population or number (population, daytime population, number of commuters from outside, number of executives, etc) in Table 2 is not of value.

The authors do not show every characteristic value they are interested in to readers. They should show both its representative value (mean, median, etc) and its variation among municipalities.

Minor Comments:
In Table 4, “B” should be indicated as “coefficient”, the column of the SE (standard error) is necessary, and it is sufficient to just show either “tolerance” or “VIF” (variance inflation factor) because the former is a reciprocal number of the latter.

As both tolerance and VIF are currently not commonly used in regression analysis, the authors need to explain the indices.

I’m afraid that the way of displaying the P-value in Table 4 may give rise to the misunderstanding that it means the P-value of the test of collinearity.
Are Lorenz curves necessary? They facilitate readers’ understanding no more than do Gini indices in this draft. The figure is not necessary.

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.