Reviewer's report

Title: Mapping the denominator: Improving spatial demographic data for disease modeling and deriving health metrics

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Reviewer: Archie Clements

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent paper. It is well written and will be of considerable interest to readers of the journal. It will also be of interest to a wide readership in the public health community. I have no major criticisms (only some minor points below)

Minor point on semantics: I have a bit of an issue with the use of the term denominator. Most of the spatial prediction studies described in the introduction use sample denominators to estimate and predict disease risk – they don’t use population denominators. The sample denominators are robust because they are determined from survey data. Issues arises when the spatial predictions are applied to the population, in which case the population is usually not a denominator, it is a multiplication factor.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 interests to declare