Reviewer's report

Title: Correlating pharmaceutical data with a national health survey as a proxy for estimating rural population health

Version: 1 Date: 26 January 2010

Reviewer: David A Swanson

Reviewer's report:

There are no major compulsory revisions

Here are the minor essential revisions

1. The source of the population data used as denominators needs to be cited (i.e., the official US Census Bureau post-censal population estimates (See # 2 for an online entry point to these data).

2. A brief discussion of the method used by the US Census Bureau to develop county-level population estimates by age needs to be included. The brief description can be extracted from material found at http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/

3. In considering future directions (i.e., sub-county prevalence rates), the authors should state that the US Census Bureau estimates cannot be directly used for this purpose, but that in conjunction with synthetic estimation and other techniques that the "cohort change ratio" technique can be used for this purpose (See, Smith, Tayman, and Swanson, 2001; Swanson, Schlottmann, and Schmidt, 2009)

References


Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.