Reviewer’s report

Title: Age-standardized mortality rates related to viral hepatitis in Brazil

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Reviewer: Nazrul Islam

Reviewer’s report:

Perazzo et al attempted to estimate the age-standardized mortality associated with viral hepatitis in Brazil between 2008 and 2014. The topic is important, and the data from this study would help inform public health policy. Some additional information/clarification would make this otherwise well-described paper stronger. Here are my comments:

Major:

(1) The authors said "The World Standard population (2000-2025) reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) was used as the standard population". However, it was not clear which year's population was used as 'standard population". It is advised that they list the population structure as a supplementary table. It is also important to mention if they considered standardizing for both age and sex.

(2) Instead of using world population, Brazilian population for any particular year would probably be more meaningful to examine the trend.

(3) Please add the total population along with the number of cases in the tables.

(4) Please consider calculating Annual Percent Change after age-standardization (please see above). Also, was there any particular time period (say, 2007-2010, or 2009-2013 etc) when there was a different trend (increased/decreased) that could have been masked by the whole time period?

(5) Graphical presentation of the age-standardized rates by year would be more intuitive and informative.

(6) In the introduction section, please elaborate on the specific research gaps, and the rationale for the study (it talks about low-to-middle income, but Brazil is an upper-middle income country). More emphasis may be put on Brazilian data, and how this would help shape the local and regional health policy.

Minor:

(1) consistency in terminologies across the manuscript (age-adjusted vs. age-standardized).
Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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