Reviewer’s report

Title: Evidence for heterogeneity in China’s progress against pulmonary tuberculosis: uneven reductions in a major center of ongoing transmission, 2005-2017

Version: 0 Date: 02 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Chien-Chou Chen

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to apologise for the delayed report. Overall, it is an informatively descriptive study on PTB. Followings are my major concerns:

1. Although the authors described the temporal and spatial patterns of PTB in detail, I expect to see more inferential statistics associating risk factors with these patterns.

2. Distribution of PTB reporting facilities (Figure 6): I am confused about the purpose of releasing this information. As the map presents, the frequency of facilities is disproportional by year. Therefore, could this facility factor (like misclassification among regions) affect the spatial distributions and trends of PTB cases from 2005 to 2017?

3. Hot spots of PTB (Figure 7): any explanations regarding the hot spots? Any policy implications on these findings?

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.

Yes

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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