Reviewer's report

Title: The association between income inequality and all-cause mortality across urban communities in Korea

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Reviewer: Davide Rasella

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editors

This is an interesting and relevant paper which illustrates with a relatively simple methodology how the income inequality – with its different indexes – is associated with all-causes mortality in Korea. The manuscript is overall well written and uses an adequate methodology for its purpose.

However some minor essential revisions could improve the manuscript.

p.3 line 61: What does it means the first members of each household, please explain, this could be a source of bias.

p.3 line 64: Why to exclude households below the 5th percentile and above the 95th of income if the median income has been used? Please explain.

p.9 line 197: Among the limitations it has to be added the “statistical artifact” (see Jen MH1, Jones K, Johnston R. Compositional and contextual approaches to the study of health behaviour and outcomes: using multi-level modelling to evaluate Wilkinson's income inequality hypothesis. Health Place. 2009 Mar;15(1):198-203.). This is the main limitation for who uses ecologic level data, and not multilevel data, to show a relationship between income inequality and health outcomes.

I hope these suggestions could help to improve the manuscript,

Sincerely

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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