Reviewer's report

Title: Use of the life table to compare mortality in ethnic groups in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Version: 2 Date: 10 November 2014

Reviewer: Stephen Begg

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The author must explain in detail what steps were taken to ensure that the numbers of deaths and population size provided by the official statistics agency provide a true and accurate picture of the risk of morality in each of the strata examined. In other words, are the reported differences real or are they simply the result of differential under-reporting and/or misclassification in either the numerator (number of deaths) or the denominator (population), or both? Without this information it is impossible to determine the validity of the results.

- Minor Essential Revisions
2. The author is requested to have entire paper proof read by a native English speaker to improve readability and remove numerous typographic errors / spelling mistakes.
3. The author is requested to remove redundant information from the text and tables (e.g. the calculation of the differential in 1q0 at line 85; the Li column in Table 1, etc.).

- Discretionary Revisions
4. The author should consider including a more detailed discussion of the ‘healthy migrant’ effect.
5. The author should consider including a more detailed discussion of how the results of this study compare to other similar studies.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests