Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 20 May 2015

Reviewer: Chalapati Rao

Reviewer's report:

The author has complied with the previous suggestion to compute 95% confidence intervals for various probabilities of dying presented in Tables 2a and 2b. However, although there are several findings that are of statistical significance, which are probably very useful for understanding mortality differentials across population sub groups (which I believe is the aim of this paper); the author has neither identified these differentials or used them to substantiate his findings.

Minor essential revisions

1. The author must mark specific indicators in Tables 2a and 2b that are statistically significant; using specific notation as in the BMC manuscript guidelines. IF necessary, the author could consult the editors to get suitable guidance on marking the table accordingly.

2. The results section should briefly mention these statistically significant findings, and the discussion should include comments on the importance of the statistical significance of differentials.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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