Reviewer's report

Title: Burden attributable to Cardiometabolic Diseases in Zimbabwe: a retrospective cross-sectional study of national mortality data

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Reviewer: Chris Ardern

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is a well-written paper with a straightforward analysis of the temporal trends in cardiometabolic deaths in Zimbabwe. Despite the lack of aetiologic or risk factor information to align with these trends, the observed patterns are important for countries at similar stages of the epidemiologic transition, and for regional public health planning. I have only minor discretionary revisions for the authors to consider.

1. Line 166: Although the WHO ICD-9 to 10 translation is applied, the authors note this as a limitation. Additional validation and methodological details (i.e. optimization vs. replication) details are necessary to fully understand any potential limitations to this approach.

2. Lines 162-7: Details from this section (i.e. lack of any behavioural / medical / social predictors for the mortality projections) should also be included in the discussion as limitations. The authors might also consider adding a rational for their selection of 2015-2040 as the time period for their projections.

3. Beyond the discussion of tobacco, what can account for the increase in endocrine-related deaths beyond 2003 and the large fluctuation in the GAM models?

4. Figure 4: The time-axis is somewhat crowded. The authors may consider limiting axis labels to 5 year increments, and reducing the line and symbol weights of the CIs, which may be distracting to some readers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.