Reviewer’s report

Title: Cancer survival disparities worsening by socio-economic disadvantage over the last 3 decades in New South Wales, Australia

Version: 0 Date: 06 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Amy Downing

Reviewer's report:

This study uses competing risk regression models to examine the variation and trends in cancer survival by socioeconomic disadvantage, remoteness and country of birth. Whilst much of the study is well explained and clear, I found it difficult to understand how the cause of death information had been used to inform the models. Cause of death within cancer registration (and other routinely collected) data is notoriously poor, at least in the UK. I would like to see more information about this and for the authors to be clear about the quality of such information. If these data are poor then the models will not be reliable - this is not mentioned anywhere in the discussion as it stands. It would also be interesting to see how the results compare to standard regression.

Other comments:

Do the authors have any explanation why the results for Unknown country of birth are so favourable? There seems to be something very different about this group and perhaps they should be excluded altogether.

I think the conclusions could be stronger (this also applies to the abstract) - how do these data help inform policy? How can they be communicated to policy makers, governments, health providers, etc?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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:

Acceptable

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