Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential use of telephone-based survey for non-communicable disease surveillance in Sri Lanka

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Hammad Akram

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for sharing this article. Telephone surveys can play important role in assessment of community needs and health related problems with significant less resources and budget. please update your manuscript with following information:

General comment: was this a part of pilot study? are you planning to carry out similar study at a larger scale in future? It would be good to explore approaches to include cell/mobile phones along with fixed line surveys.

Background

Line 37: please check and correct "health Ministry of Health".

Methods

Sampling procedures:

You have mentioned that over 10% of Sri Lanka residents have fixed land line, please also include this percentage for Galle District if possible (I am sure it can be calculated by using # of fixed land lines and population).

I feel that it would be best to calculate sample based on the individuals who had fixed land line (32234) instead of 1059000? Either way I think 1100 person would provide reasonable margin of error. please include margin of error information in the methods section.

Key recommendations:

The article provides basic descriptive information that has previously been explored in other regions of the world; however, unique for the region and area. This paper can be more useful if advance analysis can be included.
I think you have enough data and variables to carry out advance analysis e.g. Odd ratios, logistic regression etc. I would highly recommend to include a table to provide this analysis.

Thank you,

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

Yes

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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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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