Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with influenza-like-illness: a crowdsourced cohort study from 2012/13 to 2017/18

Version: 1 Date: 06 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Catherine Lichten

Reviewer's report:

This is a clear and well structured article documenting analysis of ILI data from a voluntary, crowdsourced cohort in France. The data covers individuals' personal health and lifestyle factors and symptoms they experience during influenza seasons, and the analysis shows which factors are associated with episodes of ILI. Overall, I think the analysis is sound and the conclusions are justified. The findings show that the information in this online crowdsourced dataset is consistent with existing knowledge and highlights areas for further investigation.

In lines 224-9, the article discussed the association with public transport and says the difference in conclusions reached about this association in other studies may be due to differences in the public transport covariate definition (line 229). I think it would be helpful to add another 1-2 sentences explaining what specifically the difference was and how that would impact the different conclusions reached about this factor.

In line 85, the article says that extremes of age are a documented risk factor for influenza, but the cited references (4 and 5) say that young age is a risk factor for influenza, but older age is a risk factor for complications and mortality from influenza (older people do not get more influenza infections, like young people do, but it's more serious when they do get infected). It would be worth clarifying this point because one of the findings from the analysis was that older individuals have fewer ILIecd episodes, which would be at odds with the statement currently in line 85.

I believe the article is understandable as it is, however some edits would improve accuracy:

line 245/6: 'few' should be 'a few'

line 138 should say 'closer to'

And some edits for clarity:

line 230: should be 'had a higher chance of experiencing'

line 131 should say 'participated in'

line 150: should say 'participated in'
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.

Yes

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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