Reviewer’s report

Title: Individual-level needle and syringe coverage in Melbourne, Australia: a longitudinal, descriptive analysis

Version: 0 Date: 30 May 2016

Reviewer: Gianfranco Damiani

Reviewer’s report:

The author presented a well-written manuscript on a relevant public health policy, highlighting the importance to spread out interventions such as "Needle and syringe program" along with "Opioid substitution therapy" in order to reduce occurrence of blood-borne virus infections. The methods and statistical analyses used are appropriate and scientifically sounding. Limitations are clearly listed and explained. Conclusions are adequately supported by the data shown.

I recommend just few minor tweaks:

1) Level of significance and software used for statistical analyses should be stated;

2) Acronyms like IQR (Interquartile range?), CI (confidence interval), AOR (Adjusted odds ratio?) and so on should be listed along others, or at least they should be explained in the main text at the first use;

3) If AOR means "Adjusted Odds Ratio", the authors should specify the variables related to the adjustment performed;

4) What about the R-squared value being only 0.10? Did the authors perform a step-wise analysis? Why the model shows no good-fit? The authors should explain that.

5) The authors should improve the readability of the tables: in particular, table 1 reports very few statistically significant differences, they could be bolded or highlighted somehow. In addition (this is applicable for all tables), columns titles should always specify what lies between brackets, even if it could seem unnecessary;

6) In figure 2, authors should choose different line styles to differentiate "Consistently covered" from the "Consistently uncovered" because they seem too similar each other;

7) In general, the graphical aspect of tables and figures should be improved since it now appears too "excel-like". The choice of black/white colors is good, though. The thickness of the gridlines in the tables is not homogeneous.

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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