Reviewer’s report

Title: Cause-specific mortality for 249 causes in Brazil and states during 1990-2015: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Margarita Ronderos

Reviewer's report:

In the discussion I would suggest to elaborate more on: (i) completeness estimates for the different States at different years in different age groups, particularly under 5 yrs old and the impact of adjustment on COD distribution and (ii) impact on general structure of COD at the third level grouping, when using the garbage code redistribution algorithm, given the fact that in Brasil and most States these represent over 30% of CODs.

More clarity would be provided for the reader if the relationship between IHD, COPD and lung cancer with smoking is discussed together i.e vis-a-vis the tobacco control policy of the 90s that led to significant reductions in smoking.

The rate of homicides related to fire arms in Mexico is outdated, reference is from 2011. This has significantly gone up in 2014-2016. (para 570) not comparable any longer to Argentina.

In general the text (para 445-450) which analyzes COD by SDI is scarce as a reader is left wandering which countries are in this SDI quintile? in which quintile overall of all countries classified by SDI is Brasil? etc.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal