Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of three small-area mortality metrics according to urbanity in Korea: the standardized mortality ratio, comparative mortality figure, and life expectancy

Version: 1 Date: 21 Apr 2020

Reviewer: Carl Schmertmann

Reviewer's report:

The authors' revisions have improved the paper and clarified several important points that had been a bit confusing. Well done.

In my opinion the text is now ready for a final decision by the editor. I have only a few minor comments, most of which are technical or editorial.

1. [page 6, line 25-28] the same number 10,244 appears as both the minimum and as the width of the IQR. Is that a typo or an odd coincidence?

2. [9,53-55 and 10,1] there are still residual mentions of "crude" mortality rates when referring to age-specific measures. "Crude" usually means "not age-specific".

3. [Fig 1 and Fig 2 captions] the word "neighborhood" has not been replaced with "small area"

4. Because differences in age structure across small areas are so essential to the paper's results, it is striking that there are not a few specific examples of these differences. The text gives the age structures for the three urbanity levels, but as a reader I would like to know how variable age structures are across individual areas. For example, are there metropolitan areas with no children at all, or rural areas in which the majority is over 60? Seeing the range of age distributions would be helpful for understanding the results.

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