Reviewer’s report

Title: Estimating completeness of national and subnational death reporting in Brazil: Application of record linkage methods

Version: 0 Date: 07 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Moyses Szklo

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well written paper, which reports results of great relevance to Brazilian public health surveillance. My only major concern relates to its external validity, which – given the strengths of the Brazilian databases – is likely not generalizable to other countries. On the other hand, the paper has a nice discussion of the approaches to estimate completeness of records based on linkage from two (or more?) databases. Perhaps a bit more details of the approaches (changing the paper into a primer?) would increase its general interest.

I have only minor comments, as follows:

- The paper is a tad too long
- There does not seem to be a Table 1
- Line 132: "natural" and "unnatural" causes of death should be defined here.
- Line 135: completeness of high school may have improved between 2010 and 2015-6
- Lines 183-184: "homogeneous" should be defined here. Does it mean similar ages, sex, etc?
- Line 223: references should be given for the "various surveys and censuses"
- Line 228: the word "be" is missing between "to" and "very"
- Abscissas should be labeled in all figures
- Line 342: Do the aa mean the educational level of the municipality or municipality and educational level?
- I am surprised that the completeness was not lower in the States with a significant Amazon riverside populations

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