Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence and Prevalence of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Saskatchewan, Canada: 2001-2014

Version: 0 Date: 04 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Cynthia S. Crowson

Reviewer's report:

This is a careful analysis of the incidence and prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in Saskatchewan, Canada. I have only a few comments:

1. The objective was "to determine if the estimates vary across age, gender or population in Saskatchewan." I did not see any information about population in the report. Should this be removed from the objective?

2. The importance of geographic variability for better healthcare services planning is mentioned in both the introduction and the discussion, but this is not the focus of this paper.

3. In the discussion on line 302, "be to be" appears to be a typographical error.

4. In the discussion, the paragraph on vitamin D does not seem relevant to the paper.

5. A limitations paragraph should be added to the discussion. It should mention the reliance on administrative codes to define RA incidence and prevalence cases, instead of classification criteria. It should also mention that estimates from this population may not be generalizable to other populations.

6. In the figures, the color used for the age 75+ years group does not show up at all when printed in black/white. Perhaps adding different line styles will make this easier for those who may not have color printers.

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

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