Reviewer’s report

Title: The burden of premature mortality in Thailand, 2005: new estimates from corrected vital registration

Version: 2 Date: 20 November 2009

Reviewer: Ardeshir Khosravi

Reviewer’s report:

General commons:

The paper is a well developed research finding with a focused title. It is well written and provides insights into a less discussed area of epidemiological research in Thailand.

Findings show results of the comprehensive methodology to correct and estimate mortality statistics based on various sources for Thailand. The conclusion and suggestions are thought to help improve reliability of mortality statistics and improve health policy recommendations. This paper could be published with minor changes.

Details comments:

1- In the abstract under Methods heading, the authors mentioned methods for finding misclassification pattern in death registration system, using verbal autopsy (line 10-11), but this issue has not been explained in the main text of the paper.

2- In the page 6 (Line 4): the method to estimate of child (under five) mortality based on SPC data has not been mentioned and also for fitting to estimate the levels of child mortality which curve has been used?

3- In the page 9, under leading causes of death, since the rank order of causes of death is dependent on the method for determining leading cause of death, a description of the methods for classification of causes of death from which the leading causes of death were derived is a prerequisite for reporting leading causes of death and it is suggested to ICD codes for leading causes of death be shown in the tables (2-8).

4- In page 3 (line 21) it might be a typos “broad arms” or “broad aims”

Ardeshir Khosravi

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'