Reviewer’s report

Title: Methodological challenges when estimating the effects of season and seasonal exposures on birth outcomes

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2011

Reviewer: Emily DeFranco

Reviewer’s report:

Review of manuscript, “Methodological challenges when estimating the effects of season and seasonal exposures on birth outcomes”

Comments:
This is a well written manuscript. It addresses an important topic, bias in pregnancy outcome studies using retrospective cohorts of births. The authors have done a nice job of describing and illustrating the bias of the fixed cohort and how it can influence birth outcome studies. Additionally, they describe an easy method to correct for this bias.

Discretionary revisions:
Two of the most influential factors in birth timing are race (black) and prior preterm birth. Neither of these was included in the adjusted model. Please comment on the reason for this and how this could influence the results.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests