Reviewer's report

Title: Racial disparities in infant mortality: What has birth weight got to do with it and how large is it?

Version: 2 Date: 13 August 2010

Reviewer: Robert Platt

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

The first sentence of the conclusion contains two verbs and needs fixing. I suggest deleting "appears to be correct"

Minor notational issue: logit should be in reference to a probability, not an event, e.g., logit(P(y=1)), not logit(Y=1).

Discretionary revisions:

I would move some of the theoretical discussion of direct and indirect effects to the introduction, so that the reader knows what's coming.

The statement on page 7, "CDDmlr could be easily modified to test the Basso-Wilcox theory..." should be dropped unless there's going to be more detail given.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.