Reviewer's report

Title: Temporal trends in the frequency of twins and higher-order multiple births in Canada and the United States

Version: 1 Date: 9 July 2012

Reviewer: Steve Cole

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The references for the original data are incomplete. The authors only reference the 2009 US National Vital Statistics Report. I assume that the data on live births for the different time periods from both countries are derived from more than just this one report. That being the case, all published reports that have had data extracted from them should be included in the references.

2. The data from Ontario are excluded due to data quality concerns. Whilst the authors have provided a reference related to this, it would be helpful to provide a very brief explanation, as the reasons for exclusion are not immediately obvious to anyone outside of Canada, and very few readers will go to the trouble of seeking out the reference for clarification.

Discretionary revisions.

The prime purpose of this report appears to be merely to document the multiple pregnancy rate in Canada and USA. The value of the report could however be enhanced by including in the discussion some attempt to contextualise these results by comparing and contrasting them with those from other countries (eg European, Australian), where the multiple birth rates are substantially lower.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests