Reviewer's report

Title: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: a re-examination of temporal trends

Version: 2 Date: 3 April 2012

Reviewer: Dawn E Elder

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting analysis and as the authors state the idea of using a fetuses as risk model is appropriate given that risk factors for unexpected fetal death are very similar to risk factors for SIDS.

As part of the results the authors divide term delivery into early and late periods to report the proportion of live births. This is not something that is usually done and it would be good to have some justification for doing this provided. It is not indicated in the methods that this division would be used. Also this is in contrast to reporting a wide range of preterm gestational age results together.

It would be interesting to have data for changes in bedsharing practice to be included in the changes in maternal and infants characteristics.

The paper reads well and the discussion reviews the literature appropriately. However in clinical practice bedsharing is now a common association of sudden infant death. The authors discuss changes in diagnosis but there is still uncertainty as to whether all bedsharing deaths can be attributed directly to accidental suffocation. Bedsharing is probably less likely with twins.

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