Reviewer's report

Title: Schizophrenia, urbanization and the geographical distance to nearest major road

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2005

Reviewer: Jari Haukka

Reviewer's report:

General

In general the the setting of the MS is quite clearly presented. The whole process of data gathering and analysis is presented well.

However, I would like to have more discussion concerning definitions of some central terms in the MS, such as urbanization. The possible causal mechanism for rural-urban difference should be discussed more. What are the specific traffic related exposures that authors had in mind (lead?, noise?, something else).

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The review of litterature should be widened in "Background" section. The definition of "urbanization" should be discussed more, because it is crucial point when results from various studies are compared.

The authors should check, if there were any difference in effect of urbanization between cohorts. The data gives great opportunity to this because it includes birth cohorts 1956-1983. Now only, calendar year (=follow-up period) is used in analysis.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

No.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

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