Reviewer's report

Title: Air Pollution and Health in Sri Lanka: A Review of Epidemiologic Studies

Version: 1 Date: 5 March 2010

Reviewer: Jonathan A Bernstein

Reviewer's report:

The major strength of this paper is that it aggregates multiple epidemiologic studies for various sources to highlight the current state of research of health effects of air pollution in Sri Lanka. These studies are summarized in a table for quicker reference. The methodology of the literature search appears appropriate, with two investigators reviewing each article and methodological problems such as missing data being recognized and discussed.

The primary weakness of this study is the background section of the article. The outdoor air pollution section describes only three measures of outdoor air pollution but this information does not provide any insight into the interpretation of the literature search. In addition, the indoor air pollution background describes some surveys of cooking fuel and tobacco smoke exposures in these homes. However, the same rigor demonstrated with the health effects portion of the paper is lacking in the background portion of the paper. It may be better to separate the article into two separate submissions to expand on the first part of the article and increase its rigor.

One minor clarification, on page 9 the paper refers to Figure 1 when explaining why one of the studies was excluded from the review, but it is unclear how Figure 1 explains this omission.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Not applicable to this manuscript.