Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic deprivation, urban-rural location and alcohol-related mortality in England and Wales

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Reviewer: susan wighton

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General comment
This is a very well written and engaging paper and the findings are considerable, with the intelligent disaggregation of available and pertinent statistical data that informs current understanding and policy around alcohol usage and sequelae in contemporary society.

I would suggest only minor changes that the authors may choose to disregard as they come from another discipline and may not fit with their preferred academic style.

In the abstract Conclusions [p3] regarding the future design of public health policy on alcohol related harms. I think this could be more forcefully stated as the research findings of this paper are significant and the authors deserve credit for them.

On P4 [Para 1] in the Introduction the percentage of total adult population in England – 8.2 million, may be more expressive of the enormity of the problem.

Methods P5 [Para 2] some formats use dual capitalisation on Poisson Regression.

In P5 [Para 3] it may be useful to name the ONS dataset referred to in relation to alcohol-related mortality.

P5 [Para 3] reference to The Carstairs Index may require acknowledgement of existence of SIMD [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation] and devolved comparators e.g. WIMD etc.

In Discussion pp 8-9 it may be useful to identify the origins of these comparative papers as global rather than descriptive of UK studies e.g. USA, Finland and Russia.

In P9 [Para 2] the discussion could perhaps expand further on the authors' views of what may be occurring in relation to socio economic status and reported alcohol consumption patterns.