Reviewer's report

Title: Health behaviors, masculinity and social-demographic predicting illegal motorcycle street racing.

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2011

Reviewer: Dan Romer

Reviewer's report:

This paper reports on a high-risk behavior, illegal motorcycle racing and stunt driving, in Malaysia. Since little is known about these behaviors in the scientific literature, this study can provide valuable information for those interested in defining strategies to reduce or control the behavior, especially in Malaysia.

Compulsory

Despite the potential interest of the study, it has several weaknesses. There is no description of the actual risks associated with the behaviors of motorcycle racing. Some citations indicating how many deaths or injuries are attributed to the behavior would help to put it in context. Is this a very serious problem in Malaysia or just a nuisance?

There is also no discussion of stunt driving as a separate risk behavior in the introduction despite the inclusion of its correlates in the results.

It is not very helpful to report scores for the risk behavior and protective behavior scales in the abstract or elsewhere in the paper, since there are no norms for these scales.

It is a bit of an overstatement to say that the findings refer to predictors of illegal motorcycle racing. They are merely correlates.

The author also needs to have someone proofread the paper, which is filled with grammatical errors.

Discretionary

If the authors are interested in the factors that are associated with this risk behavior, it would help to identify the attributable risk associated with each significant correlate in the table. For example, although primary school education is highly related to engaging in the behavior, increasing everyone's education would not reduce this behavior by much because so few young people (9.9%) have less than a secondary education.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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