Reviewer's report

Title: Unexpected Decline in Tuberculosis Cases Coincident with Economic Recession -- United States, 2009

Version: 2 Date: 25 May 2011

Reviewer: John Watson

Reviewer's report:

An excellent and interesting paper

Minor essential revisions
1 Page 12, last para: 855 rather than 8-55

Discretionary revisions
1 My main concern in this very good paper is that the abstract doesn't adequately reflect the conclusions of the investigation. In particular, that a real decline in reported cases may not reflect a real step up in the effectiveness of control measures. Rather, it may reflect a combination of reduced immigration (eg from Mexico) and the very real possibility of decreased presentation for health care consequent on the recession.

2 While it is not reasonable for the authors to delay submission of their paper until data from the next year is available, they may wish to mention the potential usefulness of the subsequent year's data in assessing the extent to which the downturn in one year is a 'one off' or sustained.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:

I declare that I have no competing interests