Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of road traffic injuries and related risk factors in low and middle-income Pacific island countries and territories: a systematic review of the scientific literature

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Reviewer: Jagnoor Jagnoor

Reviewer's report:

The systematic review has a relevant objective and used good methods. Though the results do not add significantly to our understanding of RTI – burden and risk factors, it highlights the need for future robust research in the region.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Results- perhaps uploading issue; Figure 1 has no title.
2) Results- Useful to have a sentence on numbers of each study design included in table 1, for a quick assessment of level of evidence available.
3) Results- paragraph titled “RTI-related fatalities in PNG”, first two sentences. The table 1 – points out that method were not very clear. However some information should be included on the denominator. The proportions of deaths due to RTI are very high, are these for all cause deaths in all ages, only trauma cases, only medico-legal cases? These sentences are misleading for the readers.
4) Results – last sentence in paragraph titled under “RTI-related studies in PICTs other than PNG” reference 25 needs to be added.
5) Conclusion-The authors highlight in discussion that poor data should not delay action. The conclusion could be stronger in this respect. Also as with most LMIC around the world, resources are scarce and competing. It would be a very expensive exercise to address the issue of determining RTI burden using population based studies. Perhaps other routine data sources could be improved and surveillance systems established; reference from other LMIC.

Discretionary Revisions

1) Methods, paragraph 2, 1st sentence, could be re-written as it gives an understanding that only studies which reported injury specific data (nature, site etc) were reported and not RTI as cause.
2) Table 1 could also be delineated based on level of evidence rather than just chronological order.
3) As quoted a few times all studies are more than 10 years old- any particular reason-changes in funding, political will etc that there are not even small studies available for last 10 years. I would think in certain settings there would be a
substantial increase in RTI burden with increased motorization etc and curious to know why no research at all; even if not so good quality.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'