Reviewer's report

Title: Unintentional injury mortality in India, 2005: nationally representative mortality survey of 1.1 million homes

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2012

Reviewer: Michael Keall

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for addressing some of my comments. However, some were unaddressed and you just made unsupported assertions in response.

Major compulsory revisions:

Although the SRS may be well-known and respected, a large proportion of readers will not be familiar with it and need some basic details without having to look at other publications. Please provide these.

You need to provide details of the UN death estimates for India. How are these produced? Why are they preferable to your estimates? (I would have thought that the survey-based estimates were the ideal ones to use) How is it "known" that the SRS undercounts adult mortality? (Provide justification)

Page 4: Some of your new text is perplexing: "The sample size is selected based on the total fertility rate" Are you selecting a sample SIZE? .... Do you mean that the sampling units are selected according to some size measure? "...the sample design....is updated every 10 years" Are you sure that the survey is redesigned every 10 years? Why is this important? "Subsequently..." Do you mean in between?

Some of the explanation provided to me, the reviewer, should be in the text. In the end, I am representing a potential (perhaps typical) reader of the article, so the aim of me making comments is to seek a more coherent presentation of the material for the reader in general.

Expand on your assertion that the 2005 demographic estimates were most accurate - why is this?

Just because death rates may not have shown any trend over the period surveyed does not mean that you can extrapolate two years hence. At the very least, this needs to be mentioned as a limitation to your analysis.

Table 1. Were the UN estimates provided in the form of low, middle and high scenarios? (the link in your references is not valid). If so, you should present the range of these estimates as part of your table at least for the totals (perhaps as another two rows – one for the low estimate, the other for the high).
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests