Reviewer's report

Title: Completeness and accuracy of crash outcome data in a cohort of cyclists: a validation study

Version: 1 Date: 8 April 2013

Reviewer: Alison Macpherson

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well-written comprehensive study that has important public health implications. I only have a few suggestions that I think will improve the manuscript. All are discretionary.

1. I would like to see some description of how representative the cohort is of the bicycling population in New Zealand. Would people who participate in a big cycling event be more (or less) likely to be at risk of a crash.

2. The somewhat low sensitivity reported is "counter-intuitive". I would argue that other studies that examine self-report in injuries compared to health services data frequently have somewhat lower sensitivity, perhaps because of recall bias. A study from Canada by White et al published in Injury Prevention reported similar findings. I would therefore not claim that they are really counter-intuitive, but rather highlight the importance of this kind of methodologic research.

3. I liked the way the statistics were presented with all of the relevant comparative statistics in one Table.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.