Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with adult mortality: Analysis of data from verbal autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 4 Date: 11 October 2012

Reviewer: Silvia Stringhini

Reviewer’s report:

1) There are still English errors; I don’t know which is the policy of BMC Public Health concerning this. Authors keep on repeating that a Professor has checked the English, but I think the manuscript should be reviewed by a native English speaker, regardless of his/her academic status, or an English editor. Only in the abstract: overall is spelt “over all” and the first sentence of the discussion is “The findings from the analysis suggests”.

2) Results for occupation should be reported even if they are not significant. Unfortunately, we cannot choose what to report depending on how nice the results are. If the authors think that results for education do not add much they have two choices: avoid saying that occupation was used as indicator of SES or present the results (maybe in supplementary analysis, or just writing a paragraph summarizing these results). If you say that you look at occupation, we must see results somewhere.

3) The authors state “With regard to educational status, those who had educational status of secondary school and above were less likely to have died from HIV/AIDS (AOR=0.61, p<0.001), while they were more likely to have died from malignancy related causes (AOR=1.49) (Table 6 &7)”. Compared to whom? This should appear in the text.

4) I still found very hard to follow the changes….to help reviewers, it’s a good idea to add the changed paragraphs into the cover letter and underlie the changes. Or to submit a version with track changes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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