Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding the social context of fatal road traffic collisions among young people: a qualitative analysis of coroners’ records

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Ellen De Pauw

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Overall comments: This is a very useful paper that gives attention to an interesting source of information which can be of great importance in the field of traffic safety. The use of coroners’ records can give more information about the circumstances of the occurrence of a crash, and can subsequently help to improve traffic safety measures.

Major compulsory revisions

Methods – Population: It is unclear how the rural county was selected. Was it based on the occurrence of a high number of fatalities? Was it selected randomly?

Discretionary revisions

Methods- population: It is not clear why the group aged 16-24 is selected (instead of for example 16-29).

Data collection: It is unclear what some risk factors include. For example: relationships, physical and mental distraction, road conditions, safety features, travel environment. It would be interesting to know more about these factors, for example through a short description or through some examples of specific elements that were analyzed in relation to these risk factors.

Results: Please use a semicolon instead of a comma in between the number of records and the percentage (for example: (n=17; 57%)). This will improve readability.

Discussion- Main findings: It is not clear what is meant by ‘particular groups of young people engage in social driving behaviour’. Are these groups of young people with specific characteristics (for example social status)?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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