Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Cristina Inclan Valadez

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The revised article entitled Understanding the social context of fatal road traffic collisions among your people: a qualitative analysis of coroners' records" raise key aspects in relation to road safety topic: i) the role of youth control and enforcement through a GDL and ii) the need for a ground level understanding of the social and cultural factors that accompany RT lesions and deaths.

The discussion is well achieved, especially in relation to the "emotional distress" that influence youthydl driving behavior and the need to push a change for community norms and behaviors.

As already said, this article might be a good reference for a pre-post evaluation of the benefits and faults of the graduated license driving (GLD) programme in the UK that has been adopted in recent years.

In spite of the relevance of the topic and the approach, there are certain limitations that need to tacked.

1. The authors are proposing a qualitative analysis but they are using the academic jargon of quantitative / statistical studies. Qualitative analysis implies searching for in-depth, thorough analysis with no generalizations. The authors stated in page 16 that given the small sample size "findings may not be able to be generalised to the wider UK or international audience".

3. Please state the objectives of the paper in a comprehensive way, and justify the use of the proposed key themes

2. This misconception of what a qualitative study is also expressed in the methodology. There are no references to qualitative literature, meaning by this why do we conduct interviews? why analysing people's narrative? the advantages or the disadvantages; what do we mean by theoretical saturation (meaning when the researcher has gathered enough information to sustain the study), how did the proposed categories or key themes emerged? Please see the classical study of Strauss, A. (1987). Qualitative analysis for social scientists. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. for basic reference on qualitative studies.

3. The proposed key themes (social driving, driving experience, interest in motor vehicles, driving behaviour, perception of driving ability, and emotional distress)
are not fully sustained by literature review. Page 4 mentioned a literature review but it is not possible to link it to a theoretical model needed to give some background to the research and how are the . Some of the key themes might be better explained if by broader categories: e.g. main risky behaviour: drinking as a social event, perceptions of driving experience and drinking ability, emotional distress. That could reflect more theoretically the individual, social, environmental factors that surround RTI. In page 5, the authors mentioned a tool that was piloted on sever of the TRCs i that helped them to identify headings. However, the reader has no opportunity to see that tool and more importantly, what was taken /adapted from that tool. My assumption is that is is a quantitative tool adapted for qualitative purposes. If that is the case, the authors need to give an explanation on how to extrapolate research tools.

In summary, the mix of qualti-quali data provided in the results (the use of proportions with the use of narrative) suggest that the best way to improve this article is by expanding the sample size of the records and to use the qualitative data as supportive methodology. Expanding the sample size could allow authors to use the statistical jargon of "representativeness and generalizations" "sample size" "%" and to create a statistical model without failing into the methodological trap of mixing approaches. It is also recommendable to flesh out the narrative so that the issues of self-perception of risk, or driving ability or distress can add texture to the numbers and a very good article can be published

If the authors decide expand the sample size and adapt the paper to a mix-methods (quantitative and qualitative approach) the tittle needs to be adjusted.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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' below