Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic differentials in premature mortality in Rome: changes from 1990 to 2001

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2006

Reviewer: Dena Jaffe

Reviewer's report:

General
This study appears to be a continuation of the research done by the same group, Michelozzi et al JECH;1999:53:687-93. Although the findings are similar, the present study has a longer follow-up period for which to assess real change. Several questions arise, however:
1. justify the change in age groups (15-44, 45-64 and 65+ to 20-44, 45-59 and 60-74)
2. why the ecological type study and not look directly at individual SEP indicators?
3. If want to look at trends over time, why not chose a statistical model that can evaluate such a thing (e.g., put a linear or quadratic variable into the model for all of the data)

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest
DHJ