Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and pattern of injuries among residents of Igbo-Ora, Nigeria: a community-based study

Version: Date: 6 December 2006

Reviewer: Francisco Tercero

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting paper, but the lack of statistical support and limited literature review limit reliability and comparability. As a result, authors need to do a comprehensive literature review, as well as they need also statistical and epidemiologic support.

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

There are some problems of definition. For example, the readers want to know which is the definition of not fatal case (injured person or injury cases). Similarly, which is the definition of disability, as well as the indicator of severity. Furthermore, you must mention the classification used.

The sample size and power calculations were neither presented nor justified. Describe better the study area and the sampling method used.

The estimation of incidence should include also the 95% confidence intervals.

Why present Odd Ratio in a descriptive study?

Which one is the recall period for nonfatal injuries? 4 or 6 months.

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

First of all, the authors should use the term incidence instead of prevalence. Prevalence must be reserved only to permanent disabilities or diseases when the latency period is unknown.

Areas to be addressed:

(pag8, para2, line 6) traders are missing in Table 1.
(pag8, Table 1) In the title change “sociodemographic characteristics” by age and sex. The first two age groups are not mutually exclusive. Check the symbol in the last age groups.
(Pag 9, para 1) The 0-10 age group does not appear in Table 2, and there are some errors in the last line.
(Page 11, para 1) What is the meaning of variables students and unemployed?
(Page 13, para 1) There is an error in the sum of unintentional injuries and assault (49+15= 64 or 60?).
(Page 13, para 2) What is the meaning of the first sentence?

In my opinion you could reduce the number of tables if you link table 2 and 3, including incidence rates and 95% CI. Similarly, the 4 figures can be reduced to one table, because some information is repeated.

(Page 15, para 2) Does not make sense.
(Page 16, para 2) The last sentence can be compared con reference 6, for instance.
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.