Reviewer's report

Title: Geographic variability of road traffic accidents in Spain during the period 2002-2004: an ecological study

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2007

Reviewer: J David Cassidy

Reviewer's report:

General

Here are my added comments and suggestions to the authors:

1. Replace “road traffic accidents” with “road traffic deaths”, including the title.
2. Do not use the term traffic “accident” but rather “traffic collision” or “injury”.
3. The first sentence in the background is out of context and should be removed.
4. The 3rd paragraph of the Background is missing the point that young males are in more collisions and have a higher fatality because of their driving behaviour and risk taking behaviour.
5. In paragraph 5, there is not such English word as “accidentability”. Replace this with “collisions.”
6. In the same paragraph you mention that vehicle-kilometres travelled is a valid approach. Can you expand on this and explain why it is “valid”?
7. The aim as stated at the end of the Background section is to describe “inter-province variability”. Why is that important? The introduction of the paper or “Background” needs to build the case to justify the study.
8. Please define what a “high capacity road” is.
9. In the discussion, please focus on the following:
   a. How does your study advance knowledge of fatal vehicle collisions?
   b. What are the strengths of your study?
   c. What are the weaknesses of your study?
   d. What are the policy implications and the conclusions?
10. The last paragraph of the discussion talks about policies that are very vague. Could you focus it directly to your study findings?
11. Table 1 is very “busy”. Do we need to see all these descriptive statistics?
12. What is “IC 95% ?” mean? Specifically, what does the IC mean in table 2. Do you mean CI or confidence interval?

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

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)