Reviewer's report

Title: Identifying the determinants of premature mortality in Russia: overcoming a methodological challenge.

Version: 2 Date: 22 August 2007

Reviewer: Robin Room

Reviewer's report:

This is a straightforward report of the methodology of a fairly complicated study. BioMed central offers an ideal outlet of publication for this material, which is much too detailed to find a place in a conventional journal, but which is usefully communicated to others in the field, and indeed is relevant, as the authors note, in epidemiological studies more generally.

The paper needs only minor revisions in terms of the flow of English. An “on” is missing at the end of the 8th line of the Abstract. An “on” is missing in the 4th line of the 2nd page of text. On page 4, “obligate” about 2/3 of the way down needs to be something like “obligatory”. In the next paragraph, an “and is needed between “challenges” and “issues”. Reference (28) needs completion.

My recommendation is: Accept with these minor editorial corrections.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of English: acceptable

Statistical review: not needed

Declaration of competing interests: none