Reviewer's report

**Title:** Calculating Expected Years of Life Lost for Assessing Local Ethnic Disparities in Causes of Premature Death

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 22 January 2008

**Reviewer:** Mitchell Wong

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Revisions

None

Minor Revision

1) YPLL is probably be more familiar than YLL among readers. I obviously confused YPLL and YLL in my initial comments. To make the difference in YPLL and YLL more salient, it might be interesting to see YPLL results in Table 6 and 7 for comparison.

2) In the limitations section on Page 6, column 2, para 1, the authors state that "the Y LL measure is not age-standardized and cannot be used to compare specific causes of death between groups with different age compositions." The authors do describe the estimation of age-standardized YLL rates, which I assume does allow comparison between different groups with different age structures. If so, the authors might want to re-iterate this point since the limitation as it know reads may seem like a bigger limitation that it really is.

**What next?:** Accept after discretionary revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.