Reviewer's report

Title: The area-based social patterning of injuries among 10 to 19 year olds
Changes over time in the Stockholm County

Version: 1 Date: 14 November 2007

Reviewer: Larry Svensson

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting and well written article describing the influence of
neighbourhood characteristics on hospitalization related injuries among a
children aged 10-19. There are a number of revisions that would help to
strengthen the paper. The statement of purpose is weak and the authors should
consider including both literature and a rationale for their decision to focus on
children aged 10-19 years and not all ages.

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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)

In the Discussion section, the authors should indicate that hospitalized injuries
account for a small proportion of injuries among children. Many more children
would be seen in the emergency department and/or physician office. The authors
should comment that this likely means they are reviewing more severe injuries
and whether they anticipate any change in the outcomes for less severe events.

There is no indication why two time periods were used instead of using individual
years of data.

There is no mention of mortality data and why it wasn't included in the analysis.
Sweden has a robust vital event reporting system and this additional information
may have added value to the inpatient information presented.

The authors make mention of a possible ecological fallacy, which is appropriate. I
would also be useful for them to comment on the concepts of homogeniety of the
geographic units. Can one assume that all individuals within the geographic area
share the same level of social fragmentation or deprivation? There is evidence in
the literature the the heterogenity can have a significant impact on the outcomes
of ecological studies. This should be addressed in the discussion in more detail.
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

On Page 16, it would be nice to see a reference to the impact of coding changes (ICD-9 to ICD-10) on the computation of rates. Is there a coding effect that may influence the temporal findings?

Suggested references for author consideration:

Gilbride S et al. BMC Pediatr 2006; 6:30
Southern DA et al. Med Care 2005; 43(11): 1116-22
De Coster et al. BMC Health Serv Res 2006; 6:77

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.