Reviewer's report

Title: Regional differences in mortality in Greece (1984-2004): the case of Thrace

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2008

Reviewer: Danny Dorling

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

This is an interesting paper and I think it should be included. You could include a little further analysis or discussion about the results. There has been a huge amount of migration within Greece in recent decades. Some of this will have been selective with healthier folk moving to healthier areas. Do net migration patterns help explain a little of what you see? Furthermore you don't mention that Thrace is unusual in that, as I understand it, it was partly except from the repatriation or population following the 1922 war (apologies if I have my dates wrong my Greek history is not good). I think it is worth explaining to readers why the Muslim population is a third - and also perhaps add a little bit about what it is like being identified as Turkish perhaps in Greece and so on - In New Zealand, for example, minority groups tend to have experienced far worse health outcomes. Is that the same as in Greece? I doubt it is about religion. I also don't think it matters that for particular cancers you don't see a relationship. I'd suggest looking up the "Decades of disadvantage" literature on New Zealand minorities and considering whether what you see in Thrace might not be similar.

I hope this helps,

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests