Reviewer's report

Title: Analysis of oral cancer epidemiology in the US reveals state-specific trends: implications for oral cancer prevention.

Version: 3 Date: 14 December 2007

Reviewer: Ahmedin Jemal

Reviewer's report:

I don't think my major points have been adequately addressed.

The first sentence of the abstract is irrelevant. On page 3, the first paragraph of the background section should frame the topic of the paper, i.e., what is known and what new information this paper adds with respect to trends in oral cancer rates by state in the U.S.

They have to present the long-term trend based on 30-years of data (using a joinpoint analysis) or the short-term trend (10 years). Otherwise, interpretation of data is very confusing. It seems that the authors are not familiar to common methods of statistical tools in cancer surveillance research.