Author's response to reviews

Title: A review of injury epidemiology in the UK and Europe. Some methodological considerations in constructing rates

Authors:

Roxana Alexandrescu (Roxana.Alexandrescu@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)
Sarah J O'Brien (Sarah.O'brien@manchester.ac.uk)
Fiona E Lecky (Fiona.Lecky@manchester.ac.uk)

Version: 3 Date: 17 June 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
MS: A review of injury epidemiology in the UK and Europe.
Some methodological considerations in constructing rates

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your answer and thank you the reviewers for their suggestions and references regarding the literature review.
Please receive the revised manuscript and the cover letter that includes responses to the minor comments and discretionary revisions made by the reviewer and also responses to the editorial requests.

Best wishes,

Roxana Alexandrescu
Corresponding author
Reviewer: Emmanuelle Amoros

Minor essential revisions
page 4: add an S for existing databases
Done.

p. 11: last paragraph “males than females” instead of “male that females”
Done.

p. 6: same paragraph: RTC is used here for the 1st time; please write it in full here (road traffic crashes instead of “collisions”, as is written on page 7)
RTC (Road Traffic Crashes) page 6

Discretionary revisions
page 3: the way you present the AIS: it seems that it lists only serious injuries.
In the sentence “scores each injury from one to six); I strongly suggest that you change it into “scores the immediate severity of each injury from 1 to 6”
Done.

page 4 middle paragraph

In the next sentence you should explain that these several measures of severity (all based on the single AIS severity scores) were constructed in order to measure one’s patient global severity when he/she has multiple injuries.
All these measures are based on the single AIS severity scores and are constructed in order to measure one’s patient global severity when he/she has multiple injuries:

page 4 middle paragraph

p. 4: I suggest that you present the MAIS first, then the ISS, and lastly the NISS (that will follow the chronological order of their construction; at the same time, it starts from the simplest one)

-Yes, indeed. The order has been changed.

page4 middle paragraph

Last paragraph: I suggest adding the MAIS and the NISS to the sentence “ISS is "congenitally attached" (they are attached to the AIS severity scores as much as the ISS is)."

Injury Severity Score, MAIS and NISS for example, are ‘congenitally attached’ to the AIS

Page 4 last paragraph

p. 6: the 2 sentences starting the last paragraph “table 2 ... 14-19y” should be made only one sentence so that it would be clearer that table 2 only applies to children and adolescents.

Tables 2 and 3 give details of epidemiological studies of injuries in children and young people identified from the search that were carried out in the UK and Ireland between 1970 and 2008.
Page 6

p. 7: last paragraph: sentence starting with “table 3”: You may introduce it by saying that it is not restricted to children and adolescent but deals with the population as a whole.

Table 4 gives details of injury studies carried out in well-defined communities (not restricted to children and adolescent but dealing with the population as a whole) based on geographical areas in UK and Ireland.
Page 7
p. 8: 3rd paragraph starting with “child injury .. from 19.9 to 43/100000. ?” isn’t it the other way round? From 43 to 19? Later you mention a decline…
Yes, indeed. The order has been changed.
Page 8

p. 14: I did not mention “capture-recapture” method with the hope that you would cite my paper; in fact, I believe that here, this paper and the other 2 you cite are too specific (to RTC) (references 112 to 114). I suggest that instead you cite two excellent general papers on capture-recapture:


Thank you for the references - (115), (116) - inserted in the paper.
Page 23

I would also suggest that you develop a bit more about the capture-recapture method; I think it is of at least equal importance as the previous issue (mismatch between numerators and denominators)
The capture-recapture method can be applied when several data sources are available and under certain circumstances (i.e., for the traditional two sample method – independent samples, closed population, homogeneity of capture and perfect matching) [115,116]. It has been used in injury research [e.g., 112,113,114,117] as well as within larger area of epidemiology [116]. Within injury research, the variety of data sources (e.g., death certificates, hospitalisation discharges, trauma registry data, ambulance records, physician’s records, survey data, police records) can only be in favour of the widespread application of this technique in assessing data quality and estimating injury population-based rates.
Page 14

Editorial requests:
1. You must remove this statement from your Title Page: “*These authors contributed equally to this work”
Done.

2. Please clarify the contribution made by Sarah J O’Brien. At present your Authors’ Contributions sections states: "SJO provided feedback on the manuscript"
SJO provided feedback and contributed to the written manuscript.
Page 16

3. Please rename your “Acknowledgments” section as "Acknowledgements"
Done.