Author's response to reviews

Title: Demographic and circumstantial accounts of burn mortality in Cape Town, South Africa, 2001-2004: An observational register based study

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Version: 3 Date: 1 July 2009

Author's response to reviews:

We have amended the manuscript in the light of reviewer three's additional comments (see detailed responses below); provided a final edit and improved on writing style where possible; and checked that the manuscript is consistent with the journal’s formatting checklist.

Reviewer 3: Brenda Shields

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. We have conducted significance tests as described in point 2 below and inserted the p-values in the text to indicate the significant findings, see p.10-11.

2. The sentence at the bottom of p. 8 has been amended as follows: “Stata (Version 7) [20] was used for the analysis to establish the significance of mortality rates and rate ratios (RR). A Poisson model was fitted to the data with age group, gender and population group as the main effects. Year as a main effect was also assessed, but was not statistically significant and therefore not included in the final model. For the analysis of the 0-15 year olds, the following were the reference groups: 0-2 year olds, girls and blacks. For the all age categories analysis, the following were the reference groups: 25-38 year olds, women and blacks. P<0.05 was used to indicate statistical significance.”

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In South Africa ‘coloured’ refers to mixed heritage; an insert has been added on p. 8 to reflect this.

2. The footnote to Table 1: “No fatal burn cases were recorded for white and Asian children in Cape Town over the 2001 to 2004 period” is denoted by #
located under the White & Asian column.

3. The title to Figure 1 has been amended.

4. The y-axis title to Figure 1 has been amended.