Reviewer’s report

Title: Long-term particulate matter exposure and mortality: a review of European epidemiological studies

Version: 1  Date: 3 June 2009

Reviewer: Jonathan Samet

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript presents a limited, descriptive review of a select group of studies. The rationale for only covering European studies is unclear, but perhaps related to the larger project of which this review is a component. Major comments include:

1) Given the limited set of studies on the topic, the entirety should be reviewed without restriction to Europe. Heterogeneity by location is potentially informative.
2) The text is entirely descriptive without any critical evaluation of the studies.
3) The discussion is brief and does not consider a substantial literature on such issues as measurement error and spatial auto correlation. Is socioeconomic status a "confounder" or a determinant of exposure?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.