Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic Review of Worldwide Variations of the Prevalence of Wheezing Symptoms in Children

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2008

Reviewer: Patrick Goodman

Reviewer's report:

I find this to be a well written and interesting paper.

I have the following MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION Recommendations

ABSTRACT
In the abstract, first paragraph, say they reviewed "all studies published", this needs to be changed, they only considered studies meeting certain criteria (including population), so suggest some rewording

the second last sentence in the results section, " In ISAAC studies....) this sentence does`nt read very well, again suggest a re-phrase.

MAIN PAPER
(page 9) states the "USA had the largest number of published studies", on the same page it also states "Europe had the largest number of published studies overall", this needs to be clarified or altered.

DISCUSSION section
first sentence, states the authors reviewed "all epidemiological studies...", its possible some studies have been missed due to the selection criteria specified, so suggest that they use some other wording so as to not claim to have reviewed "all" papers.

The last paragraph of teh discussion is very poor. I would recommend it be rephrased to clearly highlight the main conclusions/findings from this work (similar to the abstract)

The tables 1-5 are all very large, and in the version of teh paper reviewed appear over a number of pages, I`m assuming that any published version will be compaced for publication purposes, it would not be acceptable to have individual tables spread over many pages (or perhaps these could be available electronically to keep teh paper short)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests