Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of apparent temperature on daily mortality in Lisbon and Oporto, Portugal

Version: 1 Date: 21 September 2009

Reviewer: Kristie Ebi

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents an analysis of the association between apparent temperature and mortality in Portugal. The authors use standard methods and come up with results similar to those for other regions. The paper would be considerably more interesting if the authors proved a compare and contrast with other analyses.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Compare and contrast the results for Lisbon and Oporto with analyses conducted in other regions, including possible reasons for any reported differences.

2. Provide the criteria used to decide the best model fit for lags.

3. Explore, to the extent possible, and discuss the reasons for the different CVD/respiratory disease results in Lisbon and Oporto.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Provide the number of days for which there were insufficient PM data.

2. There are many more references on the association between heat and CVD.

3. Include in the Conclusions suggestions for how the analyses could be incorporated into public health programs.

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