Reviewer’s report

Title: Cross-sectional associations between residential socio-environmental exposures and cardiovascular diseases

Version: 5 Date: 23 January 2015

Reviewer: Susan Elliott

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:

I appreciate the opportunity to re-review this manuscript and I appreciate the inclusion of a number of updated references. I want to be clear to the authors: I suggested these references as examples of pieces of work with which I was familiar that had been done recently that change the landscape of our understanding of urban health. In no way do I want the authors to think I was simply trying to raise my H index or those of my students. And although these references were added in an appropriate location in the text, the spirit of my comment appears not to have been addressed; that is, the literature in this paper - overall - remains outdated. Therefore, although the authors claim to be making a strong contribution to the literature, those familiar with this literature will not see it. For example, lines 8 - 11, "no studies have investigated a broad range of urban planning related environmental factors including land use, housing and transportation - a short coming identified in Diez-Roux’s review of neighbourhood effects on cardiovascular health." First, this is not the case (see the references I originally provided which are indeed cited in the following paragraph but the links don't seem to be made here....); in addition this review is over a decade old.

The fact that over 2400 in person interviews were undertaken is nothing less than remarkable. I do however have some concerns about the measures of psychosocial stress used; I have worked in this area before, and have never seen such measures used. Perhaps they have been used in other works - the authors could cite examples.

I have spent less time focused on the analysis, given concerns with the framing.

If the paper is accepted for publication, a map of the area would be a very nice addition for an international readership.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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