Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of non-fatal injuries among Egyptian children: a community-based cross sectional survey

Version: 2 Date: 28 July 2015

Reviewer: Amy Schneeberg

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses a relevant question given the burden of childhood injury globally. The large sample size allows for many interesting comparisons. Work is required to better summarize the results and contextualize the discussion to allow these findings to have the largest impact possible in future injury prevention efforts. Some specific comments are made below.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Prior to publication this manuscript requires major editing to address issues in grammar, clarity and style. Through the editing process both the results and discussion could be made significantly more concise to improve readability.

2. It is recommended that the authors avoid restating all results in the discussion and that this portion of the paper be dedicated to putting findings into the context of the current literature and to frame results for the application to future prevention programs (one of the stated objectives). It is recommended that the discussion be re-written not following categorization but highlighting key results, how these results fit together, and how they are relevant to the broader literature and prevention efforts.

3. All tables require editing for clarity/readability – the majority of the results of this study could be put into a single table. This table could include demographic/SES factors as rows and injury type as columns (with 1 column dedicated for overall/total numbers describing the study population)

4. Can the authors indicate how 1977 was determined as the required sample size? how were these households identified as having children with injuries? Does this represent all of the households in Egypt with children with unintentional injuries during a particular time period? Fatal injuries were excluded? Where there any other exclusion criteria?

5. How was the questionnaire designed/by whom and how was it validated?

6. How much missing data was there?

7. Was there one injured child per household?

8. Do you have any information on the households who refused to participate to try to help deduce if there is any sampling bias? Did response rate vary by Governorate for example.

9. To put country specific findings into context for the reader a brief description of
the Governorates is required (population density, average income or other measure of SES, other important variations).

10. Pg 11 “Boys are more likely to be active having a higher frequency of participating in all types of activities, and have more curiosities in exploring new things than girls” – do you have a reference to support this statement?

11. In the limitations/strengths section is indicated that this survey provides a representative sample allowing for generalizability – no where in the article is there evidence that the sample surveyed is representative of all injured children in Egypt. It is unclear how the households to be survey were identified, nor if those households that refused to participate are materially different than those that did participate. More information is required before this can be stated as a strength of this study.

12. Tables 2 & 3 – what test was done to provide the p value listed?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Both percentages and ratios are not required to represent the same data
2. Page 9 line 17-20 – limitations belong in the discussion section of the paper
3. It appears that injury “type” and injury “cause” are used interchangeably in tables – it is suggested that consistent wording be used throughout
4. Figure 2 “time lapse from injury to medical care” is not required and can simply be summarized in the results section.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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