Reviewer’s report

Title: A Decade of Road Traffic Fatalities among the Elderly in North-West Iran

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Reviewer: Marie Hasselberg

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is looking at crash mechanisms and medical outcomes of traffic fatalities among the elderly in East Azerbaijan province of Iran between 2006 and 2016. It is a relevant topic, but a number of things need to be clarified in order to allow a more consistent presentation of the work done. The figures are very hard to interpret in black and white and tables would increase the understanding and transparency for the reader. Furthermore the language has to be edited throughout the whole manuscript.

Abstract

* Clarify from what age elderly is defined.

* Statistical methods should be included in methods.

* The conclusion in the abstract should be based on the results in the current study not implications of the results.

Introduction

The introduction does not include what is known before, even though the authors acknowledge that there are previous studies the results of these studies are not presented.

Methods

It is unclear how the statistical analyses are done. The authors write that they have done multivariate logistic regressions, but this is not evident from the tables. What is included in the multivariate regression models and why is the confidence intervals not presented in tables?
Results

* The results are hard to follow; it would have been easier to interpret the results based on tables instead of figures. The figures are very hard to interpret in black and white.

* The text regarding Figure 3 does just explain the content of the figure not the results. Crash mechanisms are part of the aim and should be included in the results.

* Figure 5 and mode of transportation seem to be a bit outside the research questions, maybe it can be mentioned in the text, but a figure is not needed

* Table 1 - It is not clear how the percentage for each column is calculated; can each person be represented in more than one cell? How is the p-value calculated? The n should be included at the top of every column.

* Table 2 - The numbers in the columns do not add up correctly to the total numbers and the percentages in the total column are not correct.

* Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Revise the patterns so it is possible to distinguish between them in black and white.

Discussion

* The limitations of the study should be highlighted and discussed in the discussion section.

* Ageism is mentioned in the discussion, but the link of this concept with the current study needs to be clearer, do the authors believe that this is an explanation of the results?

* Bumper collisions are also mentioned in the discussion, but the mechanisms in Figure 3 do no include this term.

* A conclusion should be included in the discussion.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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