Reviewer's report

Title: Risk Factors of Morbidity among Children under Age Five in Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 24 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Kevin Pottie

Reviewer's report:

I declare I have not competing interests.

This is an interesting article, but in its current state it is difficult to read, at times it reads like a stats manual. The methods leak into the results, it is difficult to assess results in its current state, although I see some results in there, it is hard to handle all the acronyms, etc and there is a need for much more precision and consistency in the writing. For example, this article is about diarrhea and fever. So why do the authors keep suggesting it is about childhood morbidity - this is a much broader category and not assessed in this article in my mind at all.

With a tight focused research question, the intro the results on diarrhea and and fever, the discussion, the conclusion will be easier to understand.

The authors have considered a few social determinant of health in the models. However the conclusions left me uncomfortable with the apparent lack of understanding of other factors , in which case conclusions could be erroneous. So again focus on Diarrhea and Fever data and context.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
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Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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I declare I have not competing interests. This is an interesting article, but in its current state it is difficult to read, at times read like a stats manual and methods leak into the results, it is difficult to assess results although I see some in there somehow, it is hard to handle the any acronyms, etc and there is a need for much more precision and consistency in the writing. For example, this article is about diarrhea and fever. So why do the authors keep suggesting it is about childhood morbidity this is a much broader category and not assessed in this article in my mind at all. With a tight focused research question, the intro the results on diarrhea and and fever will be easier to understand. It is still going to be difficult consider the environments and other Social determinant of health, but to be fair a few determinants are considered in the models. However the conclusions left me uncomfortable with the apparent lack of understanding of factors relevant, in which case conclusions should be more focused on data. Although I have done logistic regressions, I am not familiar with the technique used in this study and would recommend a statistician.

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