Reviewer’s report

Title: Bicycle crashes and sickness absence - A population-based Swedish register study of all individuals of working ages

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is an important study for the reasons given in the Strengths paragraph of the Discussion section of the paper. It provides comprehensive analyses of significant bicycle injuries in a very large population with complete data ascertainment.

The methods are clearly described. Details that are given about the Swedish social security system are appropriate to assist in understanding how SA or DP are treated in the paper.
The general associations with increased SA in women, older adults, and people with less education are in the expected directions.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
See list of revisions suggested in subsequent section
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
There are a relatively small number of significant issues that require clarification. These are discussed below.

The sampling frame for the study needs to be clarified. It is stated to be people who "received inpatient or specialized out-patient healthcare due to an injury from a new bicycle crash". Some explanation of what this means in an international context should be provided. The reviewer presumes that presentations to primary medical care are excluded (meaning presentations to a health clinic or general medical practice). It is not clear whether presentation to a hospital emergency department is included or excluded.

In the Discussion section it appears that additional results are added, for example the likelihood of SA with particular injuries. These data are interesting but could be transferred to the Results section.

There are a number of minor issues, mainly about improving readability:
Abstract - methods - "number of people receiving SA or DP, ongoing SA or full-time DP already at the time of the crash, and new SA >14 days were analysed". Suggest adding underlined words.

Abstract - results - "single-bicycle crashes". This would be clearer if stated as "single vehicle bicycle crashes".

Abstract - results - "external injuries". This would be clear if stated as "open wounds, contusions and superficial injuries" as stated in the body of the paper.

Page 6 - line 154 "having a disease or injury leads leading to reduced work capacity [23]."

Page 8 lines 205 and 206 "... men (57%) in the study population, while there were similar proportions of individuals by gender in each age group"

Page 10 lines 226 and 227 "... healthcare (14%). External injuries and fractures were the most common injury types, accounting for 39% and 37% of all injuries, respectively.

Page 13 line 277 and 278 "Moreover, women, older individuals, individuals with high school educational level …"  
Page 13, line 278 Don't agree that "married individuals had higher odds for such new SA" as this was only in the unadjusted model.

Page 13, line 284, reword to "Despite efforts to reduce the number of road users who are killed or injured …"
Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

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

Yes

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.

Yes

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal