Author’s response to reviews

Title: Use of a Geographic Information System to create treatment groups for group-randomized community trials: The Minnesota Heart Health Program

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Editor's Comment

However, one issue remains, which relates to the results. The main purpose of the method described is to produce acceptably balanced arms in a randomised trial. Readers would expect Table 2 to look similar to a typical baseline characteristics table seen in papers, in which the 2 trial arms represent 2 table columns (but it is an unusual format). The authors are therefore asked to provide a table of several baseline characteristics of the participants, to show that balance has been achieved, and use a format that is easy to examine.

We very much agree with this comment, and have revised Table 2 accordingly. These are the only characteristics that we have available in this study, and they are indeed balanced between groups as our method was designed to achieve.