Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of the timing of initiation of antenatal care in an ethnically diverse urban cohort in the UK

Version: 2 Date: 18 December 2012

Reviewer: Mats Malqvist

Reviewer's report:

Dear dr Cresswell,

thank you for your response on my comments. I do still not agree with your reasoning regarding ethnicity as a structural determinant. Ethnicity as a cultural grouping goes beyond neighbourhood and schools, as you give as examples and is as such a much more powerful predictor. In line with the CSDH framework ethnicity, along with occupation, gender, income and education, is a structural determinant affecting the intermediary determinants like parity, language ability etc. As such ethnicity is not individual-based.

Just because your focus is on ethnicity I would recommend a stratified analysis, to see how much was depending on ethnicity and how much was income/occupation/education.

I realize however that this is an ongoing discussion and I still recommend that your study is published without any further major revisions.

Yours sincerely
Mats Målqvist

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no competing interests