Reviewer's report

Title: Academic Performance, Educational Aspiration and Birth Outcomes among Adolescent Mothers: a National Longitudinal Study

Version: 2 Date: 30 August 2013

Reviewer: Tai-Ho Hung

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Minor Essential Revisions

The authors studied the association between academic performance and educational aspiration and birth outcomes among 763 adolescent mothers. They found that among Black adolescents, those who ever skipped a grade had higher offspring’s birth weight. Among non-Black adolescents, ever skipping a grade and higher educational aspiration were associated with higher offspring’s birth weight; ever skipping a grade was also associated with higher gestational age. The significance of these associations did not change when smoking during pregnancy and prenatal care visit were considered into analysis.

The manuscript is well written and the large sample size supports the conclusions. Results derived from this study are useful to clinicians and also suggest potential implications for public health. I have only one minor suggestion. The authors should provide their definitions of “smoking during pregnancy” and classification of BMI subcategories (underweight, normal weight, overweight, and obese).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.