Reviewer's report

Title: Current smoking behaviour among rural South African children: Ellisras Longitudinal Study

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2011

Reviewer: Tibor Baska

Reviewer's report:

Although authors inform in the end of Background that cross-sectional data are presented, it would better to mention it explicitly in the abstract and Methods (Research design and sampling) as well.

In the Results, the first paragraph, remove "Interestingly" - subjective evaluations and assessments should be reserved for Discussion.

In Table 1, if none of the girls smoked cigarette, state this as (0)0.0

In the Discussions you stated: "...However, the increasing prevalence of smoking with increasing age among the Ellisras boys aged 11 to 18 years raises a serious concern. It is not clear what the cause of this is..." - increasing prevalence with age is common and not unusual. It reflects smoking initiation within this age period, particularly between 12 and 13 years. This finding has a policy implication regarding primary prevention of tobacco use among youngsters.

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 that I have no competing interests.