Reviewer's report

Title: Risk Factors for Methamphetamine Use in Youth: A Systematic Review

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Reviewer: Cheng-Fang F Yen

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To the editor:

DESCRIPTION:
This paper conducted a systematic review examining the risk factors for methamphetamine use among adolescents. The authors examined the risk factors for methamphetamine in adolescents with low risk and high risk separately. The results indicated that multi-dimensional risk factors are associated with methamphetamine use in adolescents.

STRENGTHS:
1. This study examined an important issue in adolescent health;
2. This systematic review employed rigorous methodology to collect the related research;
3. The methods to decide the inclusion of studies are reliable;
4. It is valuable to examine the risk factors for methamphetamine in adolescents with low risk and high risk separately.

Suggest: minor revision is necessary

Abstract
1. Although the readers will understand the concepts when they continue reading the texts, they may feel confused about the description in the Results section: “Among low-risk youth (i.e., youth who did not use illicit drugs), factors associated with MA use were: history of heroin/opiate use…” If “low-risk youth” was defined as never use illicit drugs, how can they have the history of heroin/opiate use? It might be beneficial to modify the description in Abstract and in texts.

2. The first sentence in Conclusion section: “Among low-risk youth, a history of engaging in a variety of risky behaviors was significantly associated with MA use” However, only substance use (smoking, alcohol and heroin/opiate use) was described in Results section. The authors should add risky sexual behaviors in Results section.

Introduction
1. The reasons to examine the risk factors for adolescent methamphetamine use needs to be addressed.

2. The second paragraph: the citation needs correction ("9 4 10").

Table
1. All tables: It might be accurate to use “adolescents” instead of “children”.
2. Table 2: The definitions of “primary risk factors” and “secondary risk factors” should be addressed.
3. Table 2: page 22: “low-risk children” should be corrected to “high-risk children”.
4. Table 2: page 20: Yen 2006: 40% used MA >4 “time”/month.

SUMMARY: An important work to the field of adolescent substance use. Minor revisions are needed.

Reviewer: Cheng-Fang Yen

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**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.'