Reviewer's report

Title: Independent Predictors of Breastfeeding Intention in a Disadvantaged Population of Pregnant Women

Authors:

Rhona J McInnes (R.J.McInnes@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Janet G Love (Jan@stats.gla.ac.uk)
David H Stone (dhs1d@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)

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Reviewer: Dr J Sikorski

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

In this paper McInnes et al analyse further data from their well-designed controlled study of lay breastfeeding support in two deprived areas of Glasgow, Scotland. In searching for predictors of breastfeeding intention, they correctly acknowledge the complexity inherent in this task. The methods used are appropriate and their conclusions are drawn with due caution.

The authors are correct to exercise caution in their finding that socio-economic deprivation was not an independent predictor of infant feeding intention. Recent epidemiological data from across Scotland has come to a different conclusion. (1) This study of breastfeeding at 7 days using data entered on Guthrie screening cards (heel-prick blood sample test cards used to screen for phenylketonuria and congenital hypothyroidism) showed a strong relationship between increasing social deprivation and artificial feeding. It therefore seems appropriate that McInnes et al controlled for socio-economic deprivation as a confounding factor in the analysis of their main results. (2)

I have the following, mainly minor, points to make:

Ž3; Breastfeeding rates in Scotland have recently been shown to have risen by
6.4% (CI 6.0, 6.8) between 1990/1 and 1997/8. (1) I am unclear as to whether this has been accompanied by an increase in intention to breastfeed but this would seem likely.

Ž 3; It would be useful to reference the studies which led to the identification of the factors examined in relation to breastfeeding intention.
Ž 3; The last sentence of the conclusion contains a grammatical error.


**Competing interests:**

None declared.