Reviewer's report

**Title:** Current use of smokeless tobacco among adolescents in the Republic of Congo

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 July 2009

**Reviewer:** Kenneth Ward

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript reports on a secondary analysis of GYTS data obtained in 2006 in the Republic of Congo, examining the prevalence and correlates of smokeless tobacco use. Overall prevalence of current use was 18.2% and was associated with male gender, use of cigarettes, having parents or friends who smoke, and being exposed to tobacco advertising.

The manuscript has several strengths. There are few reports in the literature about tobacco use in Congo—particularly for smokeless tobacco—and so this paper fills an important gap. The sample size is large (>3000) and is representative of in-school children in Congo. Statistical analyses and conclusions are appropriate, and the manuscript is very well written. Limitations are appropriately described.

It would be helpful to specify which school grades were surveyed; this would help explain why age is skewed toward younger children (1/3 of the sample are 12 years or age or younger).

Clarify in Table 2 whether the “adjusted” models adjusts for all variables included in the Table.

Consider adding a brief discussion of why younger children were more likely than older children to use smokeless tobacco. This effect is statistically significant in the unadjusted models, and although it wasn’t significant in the adjusted model, odds ratios are consistently negative. I would have expected higher prevalence in older children.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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.