Reviewer's report

Title: Are time-trends of smoking among pregnant immigrant women in Sweden determined by cultural or socioeconomic factors?

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Reviewer: Vincent Jaddoe

Reviewer's report:

This study assessed whether the development of the smoking prevalence at the first antenatal visit in pregnant immigrant women in Sweden during the period 1982-2001, and the socioeconomic distribution of smoking in this group, followed the trajectory, which could be expected from the stages of the global smoking epidemic model in the women's countries of origin. Data were available from the Swedish Medical Birth Registry. Immigrant pregnant women (n=234,731) were selected. Results showed that relative inequality in smoking among pregnant immigrant women increased from 1982-2001. The socioeconomic differences were most evident among women from other Nordic countries. During this period, the total attributable fraction for educational difference increased from 55% in 1982 to 62% in 2001. The authors conclude that the socioeconomic time trend of smoking at first ante-natal visit can not be explained by the stage of the world wide tobacco epidemic model of the county of origin of the immigrant. They suggest that a focus should be set on women with a low educational level regardless of cultural background.

This study is very well analyzed and the results are clearly presented. The manuscript is well written and balanced. The main messages and conclusions are important.

I have only minor comments:

1) The authors should mention some limitations of this study, including the limited number of explanatory variables that were available due to use of a registry based dataset.

What would information about other explanatory variables such as:
- generation of immigrant
- work
- income
- work
add to their analyses.

2) Not smoking in early pregnancy, but continued smoking during pregnancy has important adverse effects on pregnancy outcomes. This should be mentioned in the discussion;
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'