Reviewer's report

Title: Does Chinese culture influence psychosocial factors for heroin use among young adolescents in China? A cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Norweeta Milburn

Reviewer's report:

This is a generally well written manuscript with a limited focus that may be better suited for a brief scientific report of 10 – 12 pages maximum including tables, figures and references. With this suggested in mind, other concerns and comments are noted below.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Introduction
1. The introduction should be reduced in length.
2. The conceptual frame for the manuscript is not clear. For example, a rationale was not provided for the gender comparisons that were done in the data analysis. Why were gender differences expected and examined?

Method
1. The method is well written with a good clear description of the sampling design and procedures.
2. A single measure was used for as the variable the major construct of interest, individualism/collectivism. Given the convenience sample and cross-sectional design, multiple measures would have been more appropriate. The individualism/collectivism scale description was not clear. Is it a single measure or were multiple measures developed from it? Consequently, there are a number of questions about the measure that need to be addressed. Are the family, friend and classmate measures scales or subscales? Were friends distinct from classmates with no overlap? What were the 18 scale items that were used to construct the scales/subscales? Examples of the individual items for the individualism/collectivism scale were not provided. What does the concept of values mean in interpreting the three scales (subscales)? For example, what exactly is a family member collectivism value?

Discussion
1. The discussion contains considerable new research and information that was not presented earlier in the manuscript (e.g., in the introduction). See the earlier comment about the lack of clarity in the conceptual frame.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Minor comments
1. The use of abbreviations is distracting. TCB, PCB, etc. should be spelled out in the introduction and discussion.
2. A careful edit is needed to address minor grammatical errors in the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I ahve no competing interests.