Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2010

Reviewer: Bo Wang

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General comments:
Using data from a cross-sectional survey, the authors present findings about the levels of individualism and collectivism among Chinese adolescents and its association with psychosocial factors for heroin drug use. The manuscript addresses an interesting topic, and adds to the body of knowledge of adolescent health risk behaviors. I only have a few comments which I discuss in more detail below.

Background:
1) The authors explained the theory of planned behavior in detailed in pages 5-6 (around 300 words). Although it is always helpful to provide readers more information about study theory, this may be too detailed information as most of the readers in public health are familiar with this theory. I would recommend that the authors reduce the length of this section.

Methods:
2) The authors stated in page 8 (lines 4-5) that “as the goal of the study was to investigate how psychocultural and psychosocial factors influence heroin use…” which is not consistent with what they stated in pages 2 and 7--“…how cultural differences were associated with the constructs of the Theory of Planned Behavior and other psychosocial factors for heroin drug use.” The authors should be consistent with their study objective.

3) The authors stated in page 11 (lines 11-13) that “one item (of ICIAI) was deleted from the instrument because the meaning of the item could not be appropriately expressed in Chinese.” This is difficult to understand. The authors should at least be able to translate essential meaning of the statement into Chinese.

Analysis:
4) Chi-squared test should be chi-square test (page 13, line 1).

5) The measurement of psychosocial factors for heroin use can be improved. While attitude towards heroin use, perceived peer control, and communication
with parent about heroin use were measured using multiple items, descriptive norms and subjective norms were measured by a single question (five “yes/no” questions). Most importantly, because very few (or zero) students answered “yes,” I would suggest that the authors consider constructing composite scores for these two variables.

6) In two logistic regression analyses, there were no factors significantly associated with descriptive norms of heroin use by villagers. I would suggest that the authors delete these results.

Results:

7) Page 17 (lines 15-16), the authors stated “the mean age of this study population was 15 years.” It should be study sample.

8) Page 18 (line 12), the authors stated “…although non-statistically-significant negative trend was observed.” I would suggest deletion of this statement.

Overall, this is a very informative paper, although the fluency of English writing can be improved. I would recommend that the authors revise and resubmit the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.