Reviewer's report

Title: Response rates and selection problems, with emphasis on mental health variables and DNA-sampling, in large population based cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of adolescents in Norway

Version: 2 Date: 15 July 2010

Reviewer: Denise Daley

Reviewer's report:

This study investigates response rates, selection bias and factors associated with failure to provide DNA samples. This paper covers a vast amount of ground and there is value in the paper.

In its current state the quality of the written english is a major barrier to the understanding of the paper and to the understanding of the scientific message. The language problems were noted by all reviewers.

The authors have made some attempts to improve the language and structure of the paper, however, it still falls far short. This was a major and mandatory element and the authors indicate that "If the reviewers insist of a language was, we will do it in the next round". This reviewer insists that this paper be revamped, edited and restructured. This is essential and mandatory to the effective delivery of the scientific message.

I do believe that there is a valid scientific message. I am also sympathetic to the authors, the complexity of this study is a both a blessing and a curse. The blessing is the amount and volume of data information and the curse is the challenges the sheer volume of information presents to the authors. So while sympathetic I still think it needs some work.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflicts