Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors Associated With Commencing Smoking in 12-Year-Old Students in Catalonia (Spain): a cross-sectional population-based study

Version: 2 Date: 24 August 2010

Reviewer: Joy Johnson

Reviewer’s report:

1. The paper still needs a careful edit. There are many places in the manuscript where I cannot follow what is being communicated. I have listed a few examples below:
   • In the abstract - what is meant by “first transversal[U1] section?” Is transversal a term for cross-sectional?
   • Also in the abstract – “smoker parent” should be “smoking parent”
   • “A cross-sectional population-based study.” This is not a complete sentence
   • “The behavior of friends has a major influence on adolescents for which reason in both sexes we detected a significant association with consumption in those students who declared that the majority of their friends smoked.” -- I cannot follow this sentence.
   • “Having a sibling who smokes duplicates the risk.” This should be “doubles the risk.”
   • “Lower prevalence of consumption in girls compared to boys at this age should be considered to better understand the factors and mechanisms which favour commencing smoking in young people and therefore be able to design better educational strategies.” I cannot follow this conclusion.

2. I do not think the registration information regarding the trial belongs in the abstract.

3. The following sentences seem to contradict one another. “A smoker parent does not produce alterations in the smoking behavior of young people. However, being a smoker or former smoker is a risk factor for boys and a protective factor for girls.”

4. Regarding the Hollingshead Index – please indicate that you are capturing the socio-economic status of the parents. You currently state that “To determine the socio-economic status of the young people participating in the study the Hollingshead index [17] was used.” Also, how did you combine information of the mothers and fathers?

5. Regarding my earlier request about the need for a theoretical basis for the study. What I was particularly interested in was a rationale for the particular covariates that were included. On what basis were these variables selected?
6. Please include the details regarding the model testing procedures in the paper.

7. The statistical tests are still missing from the tables (i.e., chi-square statistic, t-test value etc).

**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.