Reviewer's report

Title: Adolescent gender differences in suspected determinants of tobacco smoking: a cross sectional survey among high school students in São Paulo

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2010

Reviewer: Shin-Jong Lin

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
This paper investigates the gender differences in the determinants of tobacco smoking among high school students in São Paulo. The comments on this article are as follows:

(1) The title of this research is “Adolescent gender differences in suspected determinants of tobacco smoking: a cross sectional survey among high school students in São Paulo.” It would be better to rephrase it as “Adolescent gender differences in the determinants of tobacco smoking: a cross sectional survey among high school students in São Paulo”.

(2) Table 1 shows the prevalence of lifetime, past year and past-month tobacco smoking by gender among students in private high schools. What is the average age of the sampled students? As the average age at the onset of smoking for the sampled students is 14, it is suspected that there would be no significant difference between the tobacco consumptions based on “lifetime use” and “past-year use”. Therefore, it is suggested that the authors report only the prevalence of past-month use in Table 1.

(3) Discussion, Paragraph 5, Line 7. The authors wrote “For both gender, having a region increased the odds of CS.” However, according to the results being shown in Table 3 and Table 4, it should be rewritten as: “For both genders, not having a region increased the odds of CS.” The subsequent discussions should also be modified accordingly.

(4) Discussion, Paragraph 5, Line 8. The authors wrote “One strategy would be encourage parents to have a clear anti-tobacco attitude to pass on to their children from infancy.” It would be better to write this as “One strategy would be to encourage parents to have a clear anti-tobacco attitude to pass on to their children from their adolescence”.

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

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.