Reviewer's report

Title: How do psychosocial determinants in migrant women in the Netherlands differ from these among their counterparts in their country of origin? A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 18 January 2011

Reviewer: Lorraine Greaves

Reviewer's report:

1. This article addresses an important and critical question regarding migration and smoking prevalence. It is a question common to many countries where immigration rates are high, and the number of different migrant groups wide ranging. The key questions in this field revolve around: what happens to the rates of migrants when they migrate? How do these rates reflect or compare to their country of origin? How are they affected by dominant cultures in destination countries? How can these patterns be understood, predicted and changed, if necessary?

2. All of these questions are more or less addressed by this article, which focuses on one migrant group in the Netherlands, Surinamese women. However, while these questions are addressed, the introduction and discussion sections do not reflect the complexity of the debates regarding acculturation, second generation uptake, integration, racism and discrimination that surround the difficulty of answering these questions. Instead, the authors limit themselves to addressing some psychosocial variables to explain these patterns in a behavioural framework, without addressing the context in which these behaviours evolve and develop. This comment applies to both assessing the Dutch sample as well as the Surinamese sample.

3. The methods are appropriate for addressing this specific question, in this more limited framework. The data are sound and appear relevant. One question in this domain would be the relevance of "smoking is cosy"? What does this mean, exactly, and how would it be understood by both samples?

4. The discussion and introduction areas of this article could be enhanced, by situating this study and its results in the questions raised in point 2. It would be more helpful to a wider audience if some of these issues surrounding social context could be addressed, along with psychosocial characteristics. In addition, it would be useful if the authors could try to offer a comment on generalizability to readers. How do these results matter to others in countries with no similar group (Surinamese), but similar issues of migration and smoking prevalence. Similarly, how does Surinam compare to other countries of origin? (for example, what are the trends in smoking for women and men, history, stage of the epidemic, types of tobacco used other than cigarettes (esp among women), etc?) These questions about both the Netherlands and Surinam need to be placed in a wider context for readers to be able to apply these findings and build on them in other
5. The limitation is the cross sectional design. The authors identify this. It might help to explore this limitation a bit more in light of trends such as those mentioned above, in both Netherlands and Surinam.

6. The title and writing are acceptable. The abstract needs to clarify that increase in prevalence refers to the migrant group, not the population of the destination country. This confusion is apparent in a few places in the mss.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests