Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2011

Reviewer: Nerida L Leal

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

Results, paragraph 6: The Spearman correlations are very small, which may suggest a Type I error has occurred due to your large sample size. Author should consider noting this in the description e.g. by including effect size.

Minor essential revisions (all typographical / language errors) - grouped by section and paragraph, and listed in order:

1. Abstract, Methods: delete "in" prior to "from June".

2. Introduction, paragraph 1: "and caused unnecessary" should be "and causes unnecessary"; "motorcycles were modified" should be "motorcycles are modified".

3. Introduction, paragraph 2: "Study on car racing showed" should be "Studies investigating car racing have shown". Vaaranen and Vaaranen (http://ann.sagepub.com/content/595/1/91.short) & Weiloch (http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/staff/hvaarane/kortteliralli.pdf) would be useful additional references here.

4. Introduction, paragraph 3: "Given these findings, studies" could be "However, studies".

5. Introduction, paragraph 4: "traditional masculine beliefs reported less likely to practice health protective" should be "traditional masculine beliefs are less likely to report practicing health protective"; "Causal link between" should be "A causal link between"; second to last sentence could have the Vaaranen references added; missing period at end of paragraph.

6. Methods, paragraph 1: "surrounding the behaviour investigated" should be "surrounding the behaviour being investigated" or "surrounding the behaviour under investigation"; "motorcycle racer, all the interviews" should be "motorcycle racers, all of the interviews"; "motorcycle racer, aimed to facilitate" should be "motorcycle racers, in an attempt to facilitate".

7. Methods, paragraph 2: "The second section consisted of 5-item question designed" should be "The second section consisted of 5 questions designed"; "a total of 7 items which contribute to the masculinity scale (strong personality"
should be "a total of 7 items (strong personality)."

8. Methods, Analyses paragraph: "All significant variables (p < .05) associated to frequency of racing" should be "All significant variables (p < .05) associated with frequency of racing".

9. Results, paragraph 1: "six months study period" should be "six month study period"; "sensitivity of the study issue. Most of the" could be "sensitivity of the study issue, as most of the"; "paid employment have personal monthly income less than" should be "paid employment reported a personal monthly income of less than".

10. Results, paragraph 4: "The mean of health protective behaviour score was 4.10" should be "The mean health protective behaviour score was 4.10".

11. Results, paragraph 5: "The mean of health risk behaviour score was 2.10" should be "The mean health risk behaviour score was 2.10"; "and mode was 2" should be "and the mode was 2".

12. Results, paragraph 6: "of 4.0. (ranged from 0 to 21)" should be "of 4.0. Possible scores ranged from 0 to 21."; "The score for masculinity scale was negatively skewed" should be "The distribution of masculinity scale scores was negatively skewed"; "The mean score differ significantly by ethnicity and marital status" should be "The mean score differed significantly by ethnicity and marital status"; "The Malay participants has highest masculinity score (15.9)" should be "The Malay participants had the highest mean masculinity score (15.9)"; "Chinese (12.9) (p < .001)" should be "Chinese (12.9) participants (p < .001)"; "not married had higher mean" should be "not married had a higher mean"; "No statistically significant difference was observed for age" should be "No statistically significant differences were observed for age"; "and other variables in family characteristics" should be "or other family characteristic variables"; "Spearman rank order correlation" should be "Spearman rank order correlations".

13. Results, paragraph 7: for first chi-square, add "predictors" after "were statistically significant", and put a space after "df =" so there is a space between = and 23; all instances of "odds for racing frequency" should be "odds of racing"; "Participants with neither and at least one" should be "Participants with neither or at least one"; "who are strict were more likely to have higher" should be "who are strict had higher".

14. Results, paragraph 8: "were more likely to involve in racing along with performing stunts while riding" should be "were more likely to perform stunt riding while racing".

15. Discussion, paragraph 1: "Study found a variety of delinquent behaviours exists concomitantly" should be "This study found that a variety of delinquent behaviours exist concomitantly".

16. Discussion, paragraph 2: consider using "ethnically diverse" or "multi-cultural" instead of "mutli-ethnic".
17. Discussion, paragraph 4: "this study confirm earlier studies" should be "this study are consistent with those of earlier studies".

18. Discussion, paragraph 5: "First limitation of the study includes the use of snowball" should be "The first limitation of the study was the use of the snowball"; "Given the sensitivity" should be "However, given the sensitivity"; "its ethical and practical considerations limit" should be "ethical and practical considerations limited".

19. Conclusion: "with a variety of factors, including participant" should be "with a variety of participant"; "should enlighten the negative" should be "should highlight the negative"; "address simultaneously" should be "simultaneously address"; "inter-related risk behaviour" should be "inter-related risk behaviours" or "inter-related risky behaviour"; "Findings can inform future program providers for adolescents and young adults and may be" should be "The findings of this study can inform the development of future programs aimed at adolescents and young adults, and may be".

**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**: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests**: I declare that I have no competing interests