Reviewer's report

**Title:** Can primary care data be used to monitor regional smoking prevalence? An analysis of The Health Improvement Network primary care data

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 28 August 2011

**Reviewer:** Billie Bonevski

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor essential revisions

This paper compared two types of regional smoking prevalence data in the UK. The article is of limited interest. The authors do not highlight why one would prefer to use the THINs data rather than the GLS if, as the authors themselves have pointed out, the GLS is gold standard?

More information is required about the GLS data - what are the specific measures used for smoking status, what demographics are collected, etc?

The analysis section should be carefully justified as the most appropriate method available with references.

**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 that I have no competing interests'