Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of neighbourhood purchasing power on breastfeeding during infancy: a Swedish population-based cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2013

Reviewer: VICENTE MARTINEZ-VIZCAINO

Reviewer’s report:

Mayor compulsory revisions
- The background seems too general, in a way that when you have finished the reading you don’t know what is the consolidated knowledge about the relationship between breastfeeding and neighborhood, and where should be inserted the novelties that is supposed this paper might provide
- The objectives are not very well stablished

Methods:
- The specific objective of the study is elucidated in this section “A more specific aim within the project, which is expressed in this study, is to explore household purchasing power, maternal age and smoking, and parental educational level on breastfeeding at four months of age”. But, in my opinion, household purchasing power is not the same that neighborhood purchasing power.
- Why should the reader suppose that parish is a homogeneous spatial area regarding SES?
- In statistical analysis, authors should to justify why they did not adjust for familial income or purchasing power, probably the factor more closely associated to the probability of breastfeeding. Indeed, authors should justify why they tried to examine the associations in both ways ORs and RRs

Results:
In text, some results appear duplicated, i.e. prevalence of not breastfeeding at 4th month (16.3%, 29.4%, ….), and these data are also shown in tables repeatedly

Discussion
Authors said that “The new finding in the present study is that household purchasing power is still a determinant of breastfeeding when maternal age, smoking and parental education are adjusted for. This demonstrates the need to take into account both parental income and individual characteristics when conducting similar studies.”

Thus, household purchasing power is a determinant of breastfeeding, not neighbourhood, and in the multilevel analysis, therefore in the multilevel analysis the cluster should be the family, not the neighbourhood
Minor comments:

The style of writing is something thick, unfocused, and not easy to reading. For example, if the third paragraph was deleted the paper not lose much

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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