Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of a partial smoking ban in a pro-smoking environment: a cross-sectional study in Lisbon taxis

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Reviewer: Jose M Martínez-Sánchez

Reviewer's report:

It is an interesting and well written manuscript. I suggest some comments to improve the presentation of the results.

Abstract:
- In my opinion, the background is too long.
- Do not provide information of the sample (median age, schooling years, etc.) in the methods.
- It is not necessary in the abstract's methods provide all name of the significant test.

Introduction:
- The introduction is well presented, but it is interesting to introduce aspects on the importance of the effectiveness of smoking bans in taxis (i.e: reduced space in vehicles with high levels of SHS when some people smoke; taxis are workplaces venues; etc). The authors could reduce the description of the comprehensive smoking bans and introduce some comments on the importance of studying the attitudes and compliance of smoking bans in taxis.
- When described the objective, include the target of the study (taxi drivers).

Methods:
- How many streets were selected? Was the number of taxis selected in each street proportional to traffic density? Were there any sign of tobacco use in the taxis whose drivers rejected the participation (3 taxi drivers)? These points should be explained.
- The potential target of the study is all taxis or taxi drivers of Lisbon. How many licences of taxi drivers are there in Lisbon? What were the sample design and the statistical power?
- There is a potential recall bias in the question on attitudes of smoking in the taxi before the ban. Thus, the comparison before and after could be affected for this bias. This point should be discussed in the limitations of the study.

Results:
- I suggest to provide the main results of the table 1 (general characteristics of
the sample) and table 2 (age-gender specific smoking rates) in the text and delete it of the manuscript.

- It is interesting for the manuscript to provide two new tables, one for the part of SFP awareness and support and other one for the part of ban compliance and enforcement, with all results: prevalences, unadjusted and adjusted ORs, and their 95%CI; stratified for the potential confounders (age, education, smoking status, working-shift, number of cigarettes, smoking rules in their homes and cars, etc.). Besides, the results section, particularly the section of ban compliance and enforcement, could be reduced with the two new tables and to provide only the main results in the text.

- In page 8 when the authors say: “all taxis displayed the required signs” it could be added “by the ban”.

Discussion:

- The authors should include some comparisons of their data with the results of other studies conducted in taxis (although there are few articles) and in other kind of vehicles, particularly private cars.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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