Author's response to reviews

Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Frequent Insufficient Sleep in 5 U.S. States, 2009: A Retrospective Cohort Study

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Version: 4 Date: 11 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
December 7, 2012

Dr. Jimmar Dizon

BMC Public Health

Journal Editorial Office

PubMed Central

Dear Dr. Dizon,

Please find attached the newly revised version of our manuscript, “Adverse Childhood Experiences and Frequent Insufficient Sleep in 5 U.S. States, 2009: A Retrospective Cohort Study” for publication in BMC Public Health. We would like to thank the reviewers again for their helpful comments which vastly improved the quality of this manuscript.

We have attached the reviewers’ comments – along with our responses – which helped us improve the manuscript as directed. These comments immediately follow in this cover letter.

Thank you very much for your suggestions and continued consideration. We look forward to seeing this manuscript published in BMC Public Health.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer's report
Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Frequent Insufficient Sleep in 5 U.S. States, 2009: A Retrospective Cohort Study
Version: 3 Date: 27 November 2012
Reviewer: Karolin Roeser

Reviewer's report:
Thank you to the authors for revising the manuscript so conscientiously! All my concerns have been responded to in a satisfactory manner, and, in my view, the same holds true for those of the other reviewers. Thank you!

However, before publishing the manuscript, I may suggest 2 issues for Minor Essential Revisions:
1. In the newly inserted sentence (methods section, ACEs, last paragraph) the authors use “FIS” as an abbreviation for, I guess, frequent insufficient sleep. However, this abbreviation has not been introduced before and is not used elsewhere in the manuscript. I may suggest that the authors write out the term in this sentence. Thank you for catching this and it has been changed accordingly.
2. In the results section, Relationships between ACEs and frequent insufficient sleep, last sentence, “Table 3, Model 1” should be changed into “Table 4, Model 1”. Thank you for also catching this and it has also been changed accordingly.

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

Reviewer's report
Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Frequent Insufficient Sleep in 5 U.S. States, 2009: A Retrospective Cohort Study
Version: 3 Date: 3 December 2012
Reviewer: Anna Price

Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Results: the N provided against your sample characteristics in Tables 1 and 2 do not match the percentages reported. For example, 16,474 women out of 25,810 is 64%, not 52%, and likewise for the male proportion. 11,208 participants with ACE=0 is 43.4%, not 40.5% and so on. Please explain why your proportions differ, or change in the tables and text if they are incorrect. Sorry for the confusion and thank you for pointing this out to us. Because the BRFSS is a complex sampling design study, we used sampling weights to obtain the distribution of the study population (Table 1). Therefore, the sample was weighted to represent the U.S. population. We have changed the headings in Table 1 accordingly. Table 2, however, is not affected.
Minor Essential Revisions:
2. How was the cut-off of 14 days chosen for the sleep problem definition? Is this categorization validated against other sleep disorder measures or a clinical definition? If not and it was chosen by the authors, please provide a justification why.

Discretionary Revisions:
3. Should the reference to Table 3, Model 1 on p12 be Table 4, Model 1? Thank you for catching this. It has been changed accordingly.
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