Reviewer's report

Title: Evidence of an Emerging Hookah Use Trend among University Students: A Cross-Sectional Comparison between Hookah and Cigarette Use

Version: 2 Date: 17 February 2013

Reviewer: Caroline Cobb

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS
None noted.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

ABSTRACT/INTRODUCTION
1) Purpose in the abstract and introduction need to be reconciled better. Abstract indicates study purpose was to assess hookah use and identify associations with cigarette smoking and other demographic factors, but the introduction states that the purpose was to estimate and compare patterns of cigarette and hookah use.

METHODS- No comments.

RESULTS
2) Were multi-racial participants (N=93; 7.4% of weighed sample) dropped from subsequent analyses or included in the Other group? Unclear why racial/ethnic comparisons only included White, Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Other.
3) The results section on the logistic regression results needs to be revisited. The odds ratio (OR) and 95% CI statistics should be reported in a consistent manner, and the models tested should be specified clearly in the either in the methods or results section. OR reported are typically reported as adjusted OR (AOR) if all covariates were entered into the model at the same time.

DISCUSSION
4) The first sentence of the predictors of hookah use section is unclear: “…potentially multiplying the deleterious effects.” Effects on health? Risk for dependence? Additional references may also be beneficial here.
5) Two statements “widespread availability …few restrictions” and “seen in the past with cigar users” need references.

TABLES
6) Table 4 needs additional descriptors for the two columns in each hookah use category (ever, past year, current).

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS
7) I suggest editing the last sentence of the acceptance and availability section to be more provisional: “The availability and acceptance of this social arena to
share tobacco smoking may be related to the dramatic increase in prevalence observed among adolescents and young adults."

MINOR ISSUES NOT FOR PUBLICATION

8) Some grammatical/spelling errors noted. See page 9 line 211 discussion, check sentence structure for last sentence (“; while current use…”). See page 11 line 258 of discussion (“Cigarette users were highly predictive”).

9) Results and discussion section needs editing for consistent capitalization of race names (white vs. White).

10) Table 2 title needs revision.

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.