Reviewer's report

Title: Factors influencing mode of transport in older adolescents: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 13 March 2013

Reviewer: Palma Chillón

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses an important public health issue, i.e. the factors associated with the choice of transportation mode among Belgian older adolescents. The stronger value of the study is the use of qualitative data. It must be acknowledged to the authors.

The current manuscript has been consistently improved. Most of the issues have been appropriately addressed; however, there are still several issues that must be clarified. See the comments below.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Authors have reduced the results and discussion in this 2nd review; however, I would suggest trying to reduce even more, mainly in the discussion. It is suggested not emphasizing the barriers that have not been important for active transportation. This information is already in results.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Background. The first sentence mention benefits of Active Transport and the targeted population is lacking. Do these benefits occur in children, adolescent or adults? It is suggested including it.

2. Background, page 6 (lines 104), the sentence “Since habit is a strong correlate of transport mode choice”. It is suggested rewriting it more clearly since habit seems a very global term; it could be habit of sleeping or any other habit.

   - Sampling. The name of the University hospital must be included. The justification of choose Antwerp regarding the distance is not clear; aren’t there other cities with short distances?
   - Research protocol and measures (line 138). The information that the single question about PA was valid in studies among adults must be included.

4. Results.
   - Page 12, line 250. It is suggested replacing a dot instead of the comma, just before “for example”.
- Page 12, line 256. It is suggested eliminating the word “for” just before “public transportation or walking”.

5. Discussion.
- Page 19, line 424. It is suggested including that “…this is the first study investigating…. in older adolescents using qualitative data,…”

6. Conclusions
- Page 20, line 438. I think that the fact of confirming the findings is having a higher simple, but not the methodology used. I would include: “If quantitative or qualitative studies in a representative sample…”.

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

**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