Reviewer’s report

Title: Tobacco use in older adults in Ghana: Sociodemographic characteristics, health risks and subjective wellbeing

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Reviewer: Cheryl Moyer

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Tobacco use in older adults in Ghana: Sociodemographic characteristics, health risks, and subjective wellbeing

The authors have presented very interesting analysis of data from the WHO’s multi-country Study on Global Aging and Adult Health (SAGE), indicating the various characteristics of smokers in Ghana. This is a clearly thought out, well-written paper that address an under-discussed topic in sub-Saharan Africa. However, this reviewer has the following questions, concerns and observations.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) The authors present Adjusted Odds Ratios without presenting the 95% Confidence Intervals, instead relying on p values to determine their significance. In looking at the 95% CIs, some of the variables that the authors describe as significant can no longer be considered significant. I suggest the authors report the AORs with the 95% CIs in the text, allowing the reader to deduce that the effects found (such as the 1.1 AOR for men, with a CI of 0.06 – 1.15) may be significant by p value standards but are not precise enough when looking at the confidence intervals. This goes for both the abstract text and the main body text.

ABSTRACT

2) In the methods of the abstract, the authors mention that a small sample of persons 18 to 49 were interviewed, but I don’t think those data were presented in this paper. If that’s the case, leave that out of the abstract.

3) In the results of the abstract, the authors use the phrase “tobacco use” but don’t clarify whether that is current, daily, ever, etc.

4) Per the above, I suggest including the 95% CIs in the results of the abstract.

5) In the conclusion of the abstract, the authors mention alcohol use as a significant correlate, but never mentioned that in the results of the abstract – and upon closer inspection of the p values, alcohol consumption is not significant.

TEXT

6) At the bottom of Page 3, the authors say that the goal is to describe the patterns of tobacco use among older adult in Ghana. I think it ought to be “older adults”, but I would also like to see an age description here. Adults over age 50?
7) Throughout the paper, the term ‘ageing’ is used – and this may be my ignorance, but I thought it was spelled “aging”?

8) Top of Page 11 is a sentence that begins with “The prevalence of” that doesn’t make sense to me. I understand what is trying to be said, but I think the sentence needs to be reworted to be more clear, or perhaps broken into two separate sentences. E.g. “The prevalence of tobacco consumption among older adult Ghanaians is relatively low compared to many middle- and higher-income countries. However, the impact of tobacco use on older Ghanaians is a sufficient to warrant national attention.” Or something similar.

**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