Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers to immunization and the design of research-based communication strategies in Colombia

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2014

Reviewer: Elizabeth Ferdinand

Reviewer’s report:

I have reviewed the manuscript and have the following comments:

1. I think the question posed is well defined
2. In the methodology I have the following questions:
   a. Could the population be different in the areas that have >75% coverage but <90%?
   b. Why was <75% coverage chosen to sample?
   c. Not clear why when the participants had more than 1 child that all the children were included. Nothing was mentioned about that specifically in the discussion.
3. The data is sound
4. Yes the study adheres to relevant standards for reporting.
5. Yes the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by data.
6. The limitations in the study are mentioned.
7. The work of others is well acknowledged by the authors.
8. The title does not fully encompass what the study accomplished. I see it as “What are the barriers to high immunization coverage in Colombia and how should research communication strategies be designed to accomplish improved coverage.”
9. The writing is very acceptable.

The point made in the discussion that the factors associated with under vaccination are complex and interrelated should be stressed.

It was interesting to know about the need for compulsory immunization for school entry but no mention about it was made in the analysis or if it was being enforced.

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