Author's response to reviews

Title: Do people with risky behaviours participate in biomedical cohort studies?

Authors:

Anne W Taylor (anne.taylor@health.sa.gov.au)
Eleonora Dal Grande (eleonora.dalgrande@health.sa.gov.au)
Tiffany K Gill (tiffany.gill@health.sa.gov.au)
Catherine R Chittleborough (catherine.chittleborough@health.sa.gov.au)
David H Wilson (david.wilson@adelaide.edu.au)
Robert J Adams (robert.adams@adelaide.edu.au)
Janet F Grant (janet.grant@health.sa.gov.au)
Patrick Phillips (patrick.phillips@nwahs.sa.gov.au)
Richard E Ruffin (richard.ruffin@nwahs.sa.gov.au)

Version: Date: 25 November 2005

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We again thank the reviewers for their comments:

Reviewer 1:

Generalisation of results:

The reviewer's point has been accepted.

Evidence from this analysis suggests that this cohort study is, on the whole, reflective of the broader population from which the sample was drawn. It is acknowledged that generalisation of these results to the international population needs to be done with caution but the experience and data analysis undertaken and detailed in this paper is of benefit and should provide a foundation for other studies. Generalisation of results was not the objective of this study - rather the results should be seen as a source of information. Cohort studies are expensive and logistically difficult to administer. The relevance of these findings should influence, and be a consideration on, future researchers about to embark on such a study. Such studies obtain their study design and methodological aspects based on accumulated research based on reviews of the literature of which this paper adds substantial value.

As such, the final conclusion of paper has been altered.

Methodological debate:

The author's agree with the reviewer's comments. The focus of the paper is not related to a debate (real or perceived) in the literature on participation in cohort studies although the authors were relating the comment to references 11, 16 and 26. No alterations were made to the manuscript.

Concluding sentence:

The concluding sentence has been altered and additional comments included.

"Epidemiologically-sound"

The comments of the reviewer have been accepted and the offending words omitted.

Reviewer 2:

We thank the reviewer for the comments.