Reviewer's report

Title: Before and after study of bar workers' perceptions of the impact of smoke-free workplace legislation in the Republic of Ireland

Version: 3 Date: 12 January 2007

Reviewer: George Thomson

Reviewer's report:

General

The article appears to have largely dealt with the reviewers comments in a suitable way, with some considerable improvements. There appears sufficient and appropriate economic context and discussion in the Discussion section.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) The Abstract still does not appear to sufficiently acknowledge the non-random nature of a large part of the sample (the word 'volunteered' only covers one aspect of the non-randomness, and blurs the distinction between the Cork and other sample).

At a minimum, I suggest the addition of words in the abstract (Participants) : eg. 'From a largely non-random selection, 288 bar workers volunteered for the baseline …'

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

2) The Results first sentence reads:
In total 207 bar workers were enrolled at baseline from 139 in pubs in Galway and Cork and 81 were enrolled in Dublin from Mandate Trade Union.
I assume it should read ‘139 pubs’. Also, it would be clearer if it read ‘and Cork, and a further 81 …’

3) In p.3, para 2, line 6, ‘November 2004’ should read 'December 2004'.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

4) It would help to have the URL for references 14 & 29.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No except previously undertaken contract work for not-for-profit organisations involved in tobacco control.