Author's response to reviews

Title: Tobacco Use Among Students Aged 13-15 Years in Greece: The GYTS Project

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Version: 3 Date: 11 December 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: MS: 4321657001080701 - Tobacco Use Among Students Aged 13-15 Years in Greece: The GYTS Project

Dear Dr. Phillips,

We are pleased to resubmit again a revised manuscript entitled “Tobacco Use Among Students Aged 13-15 Years in Greece: The GYTS Project” for your consideration.

We have taken every step to address the additional comments from the editors. We hope that our revised manuscript will now be suitable for publication in your journal. Below, please find our point-by-point response to your comments.

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact me at (+3069) 32264685 or via e-mail. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christos Hadjichristodoulou, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
University of Thessaly School of Medicine
Editors’ comments

1) Methods section - The name of the ethics committee that approved your study, and whether verbal or written consent was obtained from the study participants.

Response: The study was approved by the Committee on Health Promotion of the Ministry of National Education and Religions. Parents were notified by a letter in advance of the survey and the students gave verbal consent to complete the questionnaire due to the fact that it was anonymous. Below we copy the revised section of the manuscript from the methods section.

The survey was approved by the Committee on Health Promotion of the Ministry of National Education and Religions. Parents were notified by a letter in advance of the survey and students gave verbal consent to complete the questionnaire. Students participated in the survey on a voluntary basis and data were collected anonymously using a self-administered questionnaire, which has been used around the world.

2) Please provide more detail within the background section of the abstract, to include the purpose and the context of the study.

Response: We have done so as recommended, thank you. Below we provide the added text.

Methods: The Global Youth Tobacco Survey was implemented in Greece during the academic year 2004 – 2005 by the National School of Public Health. Data were collected using the GYTS self-administered anonymous questionnaire, which was distributed by specifically trained field workers to a nationally representative sample of middle-school students aged 13–15 years (through randomly selected schools and classes), randomly selected through a two-stage cluster sample design. Data processing and statistical analyses were performed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

3) Conclusion section after the discussion.

Response: We revised the discussion to include a final conclusion. Thank you. See below.

Conclusion

The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity in Greece in collaboration with public and private agencies is urgently called upon to use the current baseline data in order to develop a comprehensive tobacco control program targeting children and adolescent smoking rates as well as the issue of passive smoking. Future repeated rounds of the GYTS should also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of recommended programs at consecutive intervals. The problem of smoking in Greece has now been documented in
its most alarming dimensions, and there is no excuse to stay still while the tobacco industry continues to target our children on a daily basis.

4) Competing interests section - A competing interest exists when your interpretation of data or presentation of information may be influenced by your personal or financial relationship with other people or organizations. Authors should disclose any financial competing interests but also any non-financial competing interests that may cause them embarrassment were they to become public after the publication of the manuscript.

**Response:** We have added a competing interests section at the end of the manuscript. Thank you.

**Competing interests**
*The authors declare that they have no competing interests*

5) An authors’ contribution section - In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

**Response:** We have added an authors’ contribution section at the end as recommended. Thank you.

**Authors’ contributions**
AK, ESS, CWW, NRJ, JK and CH contributed to the design and development of the methodology of the study. ESS, CWW, NRJ and CH developed the questionnaire, while AK, ESS, PP, JK and CH contributed to, and supervised the data collection process. CWW, NRJ and ESS analyzed and interpreted the data. AK, ESS, CWW and NRJ developed the first draft of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the final version of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.