Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Main Determinants of Tobacco Use in Cyprus Youth Through the Use of the GYTS

Version: 1 Date: 2 January 2008

Reviewer: Adamson Muula

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Manuscript title: Prevalence and main determinants of tobacco use in Cyprus Youth through the use of the GYTS

Major compulsory revisions:
One thing that is not clear throughout the text of the manuscript is whether this study aimed to report on tobacco use (all forms of tobacco such as cigarettes, cigars and pipes, snuff, chewing) or just cigarette smoking or both. Cigarette smoking should be distinguished from overall tobacco use as the former is a subset of the latter.

Minor
Do the authors feel that a reader will not have any problem in understanding what GYTS is in the title. I suggest perhaps the full term be included in the title

Please see abstract:
In the background, the purpose of the study is to assess the smoking prevalence and the main determinants of tobacco use (is this cigarette smoking or just tobacco smoking?); are these determinants for tobacco use or cigarette smoking?

Also note that when the authors report that they will assess the determinants, strictly this suggest some form of modeling or rather isolating associations (loosely predictors of) smoking. The method used of course identifies the social factors within the environment but have not been linked to smokers i.e. from the report, one cannot say that smokers are more likely to have these attributes compared to non-smokers. This is not to say that the analysis so far done is not useful, but rather may not be described as determinants. I suggest: the social environment in which this smoking or tobacco use is happening. But should the authors conduct regression analysis, then they may probably use the word determinants.

The last sentence of the Methods section (Statistical analyses), the authors refer to p values and 0.05 cut off. There are no results in the manuscript that have made use of this procedure and p values.

The Discussion and conclusion need to be based on the results reported. I will give an example. The authors write: “Based on the above it is clear that smoking, and associated health effects, is a major problem in Cyprus.”
While I can agree that the prevalence of smoking is high and is a major problem, I believe the study does not show also that the associated health effects are high in Cyprus.

Other comments

The referencing format/style needs to follow the journal instructions.

Para 5 in the background section beginning with: Limited dataâ#1: this para is particularly useful but do not have the relevant supporting references.

In the following para; are the age groups 15 to 18 years and 12 to 15 years overlapping?

Under Methods section, subsection Population: is the number 40 referring to class size or school size?

I was wondering whether the authors have some suggestions as to why the smoking rates in females are rising in Cyprus.

Adamson Muula
01 January 2008

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests