Reviewer's report

Title: Smoking and mental illness: Results from population surveys in Australia and the United States

Version: 1  Date: 20 May 2009

Reviewer: Joseph DiFranza

Reviewer's report:

Smoking and mental illness: results from population surveys in Australia and the United States

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes, the objective is clear

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes, they are doing a secondary data analysis of valid national surveys.

3. Are the data sound? Yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes. The manuscript is well written, with no grammatical problems.

This paper presents interesting data on a topic that is important to public health. The data is sound, the methods are appropriate, the analysis is proper and the discussion is relevant. The references are appropriate.

Optional minor revisions

There is one paragraph in the middle of page 18 which uses the word “settings” six times in three sentences; it could be edited for style.

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 have no competing interests.