Reviewer's report

Title: Contextual and Individual Assessment of Dental pain period prevalence in adolescents: a multilevel approach

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2010

Reviewer: Marc W Heft

Reviewer's report:

The authors report on multilevel analyses of epidemiological data of adolescents aged 12 and 15 yrs residing in San Paulo, Brazil addressing factors contributing to the prevalence of dental pain. The study is well-designed and the analytic approach geared to address the research question.

The manuscript requires substantive editorial revision prior to publication. I have identified several specific points that require clarification:

Page 2, last paragraph: What is meant by “socio development level”?

Page 3, paragraph 1: Clarify “period prevalence” and “point prevalence”. Either eliminate or improve the “No author given, 2009” reference.

Page 3, last paragraph: What is meant by “through a limited biological point of view”?

Page 4, second paragraph: “unsounded teeth”?

Page 6, last paragraph: Please clarify the “human development index” and how does it differ from the other sociodemographic data collected by the authors?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests