Reviewer's report

Title: Dental anxiety and dental attendance among 25-year-olds in Norway: time trends from 1997 to 2007

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2011

Reviewer: Neil S. Coulson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the paper titled "Dental anxiety and dental attendance among 25-year-olds in Norway: time trends from 1997 to 2007". This paper aimed to examine the frequency of dental anxiety and regular attendance among 25 year olds in Norway in two years (1997 and 2007). In addition, to examine the time trend of dental anxiety and the socio-behavioral distribution of dental anxiety between these two years.

This was generally a well written paper with a straightforward set of aims and makes a contribution to the literature on dental anxiety. There are no major areas of concern however I would recommend some revision to the discussion to explore potential explanations as well as period/cohort effects.

Minor points:

I appreciate that different academic disciplines describe the respondents in surveys using different terminology but I would recommend (if the journal permits) that the term 'subjects' be replaced with 'participants' or 'respondents'.

Abstract:

Lines 1 & 2 - this sentence sits rather oddly and I feel that the abstract actually flows better if this sentence were removed. It is somewhat ambiguous and I wasn't at all clear what the authors were trying to say.

Background:
Line 2, Para 1: cultural should read cultures

Methods
Line 1: clarify what is meant by 'simple' random sample?

Instruments
Para 1, line 4. attendances should read attendance

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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