Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-behavioural factors and early childhood caries: A cross-sectional study of preschool children in central Trinidad:

Version: 4 Date: 6 June 2013

Reviewer: Roos Leroy

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has indeed improved since the last version, still it contains serious problems:

1. after havind described the sampling method (in which they exclude small and large schools) they cannot talk about a random sample
2. Inconsistencies remain between what is written in M&M and the results. E.g. continuous data are presented as mean, categorical with 95% C.I.; what about the presentanoid of meand dmft scores with 95% CI??
3. I do not understand why the authors do not apply the internationally agreed definition of s-ECC? Why making their own adaptation? It precludes comparison of the data with other epidemiological studies.
4. the definition of treatment need and urgen care are still missing. They should be in M&M.
5. the manuscript still contains typo's and inaccuracies.
6. referral to table 1 is missing
7. Some lines in the discussion contain results that have not been described in the results section...
8. A reference is missing for the last line on page 12
9. Middle of page 13 - newly inserted text: "In this present study ...visit. This somewhat contradictory finding ..." - this is not contradictory at all. What is contradictory is that based on the multivariable analysis both not having access to dental care AND having gone to the dentist are related with visible caries experience in the same direction. That is what the authors should reflect on.
10. Page 13: "Although there is ..." - i would like to see a hypothesis WHY SES was not associated with caries experience.

Table 2: make clear "dental health" was rated by the parents; re-phrase "previous dental experience"

Table 3: p=0.000????

Comment 5 > adopt answer in manuscript
Comment 6 > adopt answer in manuscript
Comment 18. "we report mean dmft to illustrate disease burden was confined to relatively few children" - i do not think that disease distribution can be deduced
from means.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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