Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics associated with the use of public dental services by the adult population of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Version: 2 Date: 25 June 2014

Reviewer: Karen Peres

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My main comment is in regard to the statistical analysis approach which in turn may lead to misunderstanding the results. In the hierarchical approach proposed by Victoria and colleagues (Victora et al, 1997), it is assumed that distal factors determined intermediate/proximal factors and, consequently, the outcome. This type of analysis adjusts the effect of each variable for only those on the same level or above in the model. Considering that “predisposing variables” belong to level 1 they should not be adjusted for the levels below as it seems to have been done. Also, it is not possible to understand which p values were taken into consideration to make the decision to include or exclude variables from the models. The authors did not show the p values from the variables as a whole. They only presented p-values for each category.

Finally, the new texts added in the second version are not clear, as they present many typographical errors as well as poor expression English.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests