Reviewer’s report

Title: Individual and contextual factors related to dental caries in underprivileged Brazilian adolescents

Version: 3 Date: 4 September 2014

Reviewer: Fernanda Ferreira

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have answered most of my doubts, requirements and suggestions. However, there are some points that were still not properly addressed, one from Major Compulsory Revisions and two from Minor Essential Revisions.

1. Major Compulsory Revisions

I am not convinced about the suitability of including the variables "need for dental prosthesis" and "toothache" in the models to explain dental caries. For the reasons I have outlined in my first review, I still believe that these variables should be removed from the models.

2. Minor Essential Revisions

I could not find in the text where the authors inserted information about what exactly was considered as "carious teeth" in the study. Could the authors please assist me on this? In fact, it would help a lot if the authors refer to items under discussion using paragraph references or manuscript page numbers.

When I suggested in my first review that the authors present a description of the contextual variables, I was expecting to see the distribution of the suburbs according to these variables. However, the authors presented the descriptive to the variable "index of social exclusion" as if it were an individual variable (Table 1), which does not seem appropriate, since this was considered a contextual variable in the study.

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 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.