Reviewer's report


Version: 1 Date: 19 September 2005

Reviewer: Hannu Hausen

Reviewer's report:

General
1. This paper addresses a timely and important study question that has been defined clearly. The paper is basically sound, and the title and abstract tell clearly what the paper is about. Some finishing touches are necessary, however, before the paper is fit for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

2. The Results-section includes a lot of unnecessary double reporting. The numerical values that have been given in the Tables and/or in the Figures must not be repeated in the body of text.

3. The style of the list of references must be rectified.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

4. The title
   Could the expression “The distributions of Burden…” be replaced by “The distribution of Burden…”?

5. Page 3, Paragraph 2, line 7
   “Even if a high-risk group had a far higher caries level and increment than that…”
   Isn’t the word “level” unnecessary here?

6. Page 3, Paragraph 2, line 12
   “…prevention of caries highlighting that any changes in caries experience…”
   Whose caries experience? How about “the average caries experience among the population”?

7. Page 6, Paragraph 2, Line 11
   If the name of the statistical software package is reported, even the version number should be given.
8. Pages 6-8
The past tense should be used throughout the Results-section.

It might have been a good idea to define the concept “directed population approach” before using it in the end of the Conclusions-section. What is the relation between “geographic targeting” and “directed population approach”?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

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