Reviewer’s report

Title: Poverty, Social Exclusion and Dental Caries of 12-year-old children: A cross-sectional study in Lima, Peru

Version: 3 Date: 14 June 2009

Reviewer: Marco Aurélio Peres

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed adequately almost all of my main concerns related to the manuscript. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting study. However, I would like to suggest that the authors discuss in depth the use of ordinary logistic regression and consequently Odds Ratio estimation instead to perform Poisson regression and consequently Prevalence Ratio. As the study adopted a cross sectional design the most appropriated association measure is Prevalence Ratio. In addition, it is very well known that OR overestimates the association when the outcome prevalence is closer to 20% or more (see Barros AJ, Hirakata VN. Alternatives for logistic regression in cross-sectional studies: an empirical comparison of models that directly estimate the prevalence ratio. BMC Med Res Methodol 2003; 3:21).

Although the authors may use the OR instead PR, the fact that OR overestimates the effect measure when the outcome is common must not be omitted in the discussion section.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.