Reviewer’s report

Title: Toothache and associated factors in Brazilian adults: a cross-sectional population-based study.

Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2008

Reviewer: Anne Nordrehaug Astrom

Reviewer’s report:

Review of revised ms "Toothache and associated factors in Brazilian adults: a cross-sectional population based study

Ad major compulsory revisions

1) In my previous review I commented upon the fact that the sampling strategy was relatively briefly described and asked for a more thorough explanation of this process. The authors have improved their description on this point, however in my opinion not satisfactorily. One of the main aims of this paper is to estimate the prevalence of toothache in a population. Thus, it’s important to know whether the sample selected is self weighted or not. When selecting household in stage 2, where the households proportionally sampled from the 60 urban census tracts selected in the first stage? Some more information is needed here regarding the number of households selected from each tract and the size of the tracts constituting the sample frame. I also suggest the authors to give the prevalence of toothache with 95% CI consistently, that is also for the subgroups – not only for the total sample.

Minor revisions

2) I accept the authors reply regarding my comments with respect to the conceptual model used. I am not sure however, whether they have explained approriately why Poisson regression was preferred instead of an ordinary binary multiple regression analysis. I also miss some information as to the fit of the different models in addition to the independent effects provided in PR of each exploratory variable

3) The conceptual framework used is based on theory – here a reference to theoretical frameworks are needed – not reference to previous studies having utilized the same method of analysis (see ref 19-20).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests