Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors and common conditions associated with adolescent dietary supplement use: an analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination

Version: 1 Date: 20 November 2007

Reviewer: Sunita Vohra

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is an interesting manuscript with a timely, relevant analysis of dietary supplement use by American adolescents. The topic is important and relevant to a wide variety of health care providers who care for adolescents. The methods are appropriate and well described, with sufficient details to replicate the work.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- Although the authors are to be commended for an explicit hypothesis-driven a priori analysis plan, I would recommend correcting for multiple testing (e.g. Bonferroni correction).

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- I would suggest adding p values to text where statistical significance is discussed (i.e. results section).
- Other reasons for differences in utilization rates (Discussion, paragraph two) might be due to the sampling interval (current use vs. lifetime use, last 3 months vs. in the last year, etc.)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
- It may be interesting to compare/contrast the study findings with the approach reported by Picciano et al (Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 2007). In particular, I believe the two studies approached the data differently, and it may be interesting to compare any resulting differences in interpretation.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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