Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in dental visiting avoidance due to cost in Australia, 1994 to 2010: an Age-Period-Cohort Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2013

Reviewer: Bussma Bugis

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  NONE

- Minor Essential Revisions
  • (Background, second paragraph) generalize the use of either (- e.g.) or (, e.g.)
  • (Background, third paragraph) --cohort effects aides to the interpretation of trends--
  • (Methods, Analysis) again, generalize the use of either (i.e.) or (i.e.,)
  • (Methods, Analysis, first paragraph) For this reason, separation of age, period and cohort--
  • (Results, first paragraph) --dentate persons who reported that they avoided or delayed--
  • (Results, third paragraph) For adults, the proportion avoiding--
  • (Results, fourth paragraph) --avoiding care, while there was an overall decrease in avoidance for older adults.
  • (Results, Model fit) again, generalize the use of either (i.e.) or (i.e.,)
  • (Results, Model fit, first paragraph) --birth cohort effects were influential on avoidance trends in seeing a dentist--
  • (Discussion, first paragraph) Previous studies that have looked at trends in access associated with financial barriers to oral health, have mainly involved regression techniques--
  • (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, first paragraph) --clear effects associated with age structure that (remove - ) the proportion of the--
  • (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, first paragraph) --clear period effects (remove such) that the proportion--
  • (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, first paragraph) --was not consistent across all birth cohort (remove - ). Compared to those who were born between 1965 and 1969, older cohorts were less likely, and those who were born between 1970 and 1984--
• (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, second paragraph) --health care cards which may explains the sharp rise in affordability issues--

• (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, third paragraph) --an individual did not have a private coverage by their 31st birthday and then decided to obtain a coverage later--

• (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, fourth paragraph) --totaling $220 per year and (remove - ) increasing to $2000 in 2007.

• (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost, fourth paragraph, last sentence) What are you referring to by a GP? Is it a General Practitioner? If yes, you should type the whole term and abbreviation

• (Strengths and limitations, last sentence) --can be generalized to the population.

• (Conclusion) --the differences in rates of avoiding or delaying dental care, especially for those in their twenties and thirties, contributing to inequalities in access to dental care. In addition, the increasing rates of avoidance due to cost also widen the gap between lower income groups and those who can afford to pay for dental services--

• (References) The type and font of the references list is not consistent

- Discretionary Revisions

• (Methods, Analysis, second paragraph) identification problem comes about because of the linear --------- (remove about)

• (Results, third paragraph) a decrease in avoidance in visiting between ------ I suggest (a decrease in dental visiting avoidance between)

• (Trends in avoidance or delaying visiting a dentist because of cost) Change the subtitle to Trends in avoidance or delaying dental visits because of cost

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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