Reviewer's report

Title: National household survey of adverse childhood experiences and their relationship with resilience to health harming behaviours in England

Version: 1 Date: 7 January 2014

Reviewer: dinesh sethi

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this well designed study of impactful public health significance. There was acceptable compliance in the population studied and the tools and statistical methods used are appropriate and the interpretation of the results is soundly supported by the following discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors have selected multiple health harming behaviours but have not examined self-harm/suicide. In view of the strong association described in other studies, such as Kessler 2010 (which the authors quote), they should justify why this was left out.

Methods

Ist line, 2nd paragraph change residents to 'residence'

Table 4

Ist line of results- Change significance for gender to Not Applicable for unintended teenage pregnancy

Discretionary Revisions

The impact of ACEs on mental illhealth could be alluded to in the discussion. The effect modification between between ACEs, social class and health harming behaviours could be expanded further.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

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'