Reviewer's report

Title: Paternal Race/Ethnicity and Very Low Birth Weight

Version: 2  Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Rebecca Helmreich

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Summary of Manuscript's main points:
I think that all articles on low birth weight are important. This article is interesting in that your focus is on the impact of paternal race on gestational weight. It has long been noted of the increased frequency of being African American mothers and birth complications, but little is known of the impact of paternity. The analysis of birth data was a ready source for securing data, but may have drawbacks. Below you will find my comments and suggestion.

Introduction:
The authors do a fine job as far as describing the factors that impact birth weight these factors for assessment. The literature used is timely and up to date.

Purpose of the study:
What is the question that you want answered? Were you able to make any predictions or assumptions prior to beginning the study? To be a scientific paper with impact, even qualitative studies will have a well-worded research question and a specific prediction about the nature of the relationship identified in the question- it is this specific prediction that leads to the advance of nursing sA science.

Design:
A cross-sectional analysis of birth data for Tarrant County, Texas from 2006-2010 was used to collect the data.

Subjects:
Data from a total of 145,054 births were included.

Setting & apparatus:
Where was data analysis done? How was data entered?

Independent variables:
Were detailed

Dependent variables:
very low birth weight (VLBW). VLBW was dichotomized as yes for birth weights < 1,500 grams and no for 144 birth weights ≥ 1,500 grams.

Procedure:
How many researchers analyzed the data and how was data entry checked?

Statistics:
Simple and multiple logistic regression analyses were computed and odds ratios obtained.

Results:
The results section appears to be well written.

Benefits & deficits:
Are included.

Discussion:
Is nicely written.

Conclusion:
What are the social constructs that you suggest need investigation and how would you plan a future study to collect data on this?