Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-demographic inequalities across a range of health status indicators and health behaviours among pregnant women in prenatal primary care: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Sian Smith

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written and interesting paper examining socioeconomic and ethnic differences in health status and health behaviours among pregnant women in primary care. I feel it will make an important contribution to the literature, and be of interest and relevance to the wide readership of BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. Some sections require further clarification; I hope the following comments and suggestions will be useful.

The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

Introduction - The introduction was clear and well written, but could benefit from some additional information/explanation as to why this research is novel and what gap it aims to fill in the literature.

Methods - The methods were clearly described. The authors state that the data is derived from the DELIVER study. What does the DELIVER acronym stand for? It would be useful to know a little more about the aim of the DELIVER project. At times, I found it difficult to follow what measures were assessed in the two questionnaires and wondered if a flow diagram illustrating the overall study procedure (recruitment, data collection etc...) might help to clarify this. This figure could possibly replace the existing Figure 1.

Just a minor comment, the authors could perhaps remind the reader of the time periods in which Questionnaire 1 and 2 were conducted throughout the methods.

Results - The results were clearly written and interesting, with appropriate headings.

Discussion/conclusion - The discussion and conclusion sections were balanced and adequately supported by the data. The discussion considers why socioeconomic and ethnic differences in health continue to exist among pregnant women. Possibly more discussion is important integrating the use of theory to explain socio-economic and ethnic differences. I also think the discussion would benefit from further discussion on how to tackle socio-economic and ethnic differences in pregnancy health (interventions that might be effective, how health professionals can better support women from lower education and ethnic minority groups during pregnancy). The limitations of the study are clearly stated.
Minor comment
Reference 40 is not in English

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