Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring comorbid use of marijuana, tobacco, and alcohol among 14 to 15-year-olds: Findings from a national survey on adolescent substance use

Version: 5 Date: 30 December 2014

Reviewer: Zila Sanchez

Reviewer's report:

The authors have answered adequately most of the reviewers queries, however, some important issues were not well explained:

Major compulsory:

- All the reviewers asked about the hierarchical harm scale. It is still not clear. What kind of harm? Where the details of harm are presented? If the authors are only considering that frequency is a proxy for harm, I disagree with the second aim of the study, since you cannot infer harm by frequency of use.

- The first objective of the paper is to estimate prevalence. It is impossible to calculate prevalence for a national sample without the use of population weights. If the authors want to calculate the prevalence of use in the Nation, the need to correct the estimates by the use of population weight. All the analysis should use the survey commands of Stata, to include the weights.

- Since the authors are aiming to estimate a national prevalence, a detailed description of sampling should be included (in deep details), since they will only obtain correct prevalence with a correct national sample. The reader must have data to decide if it is a real representative sample.

Minor essential;

In epidemiological studies it is important to include the exact p value in the table, not an approximation in the foot note.

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'