Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between e-cigarette access and smoking and drinking behaviours in teenagers

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2015

Reviewer: Grace Kong

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well-written paper assessing e-cigarette use rates and its associations with alcohol use, cigarette smoking and parental smoking among adolescents using a large cross-sectional survey in North West England. This study is highly significant because it adds to the literature documenting youth e-cigarette use rates globally and it can inform the regulation of e-cigarettes (i.e., policies surrounding decreasing youth e-cigarette access/rates).

Minor essential revisions

1. Can the authors define “ex-smokers?” Was ex-smoking defined as smoking cigarettes previously but have now quit or was it based on the endorsement of lifetime use but denying current use? If it’s the latter the authors may consider renaming ex-smoking to experimental smoking.

2. Please consider including the sample sizes in the title of the tables.

3. The analyses section is missing the description of the results presented in tables 2-4.

4. The authors discuss that the rate of light smokers having tried an e-cigarette is 67%, which is a rate higher than those observed in France (33%) and South Korea (37%). I would like to point out that a survey study conducted in Fall 2013 in the USA also found that close to 60% of those who had tried e-cigarettes have also tried cigarettes (Krishnan-Sarin et al., 2014, NTR). Krishnan-Sarin et al.’s study along with the current study’s findings, conducted around similar times confirms that the co-use of rates may be rising.

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 below.