Author’s response to reviews

Title: Sleep quality in cigarette smokers and nonsmokers: findings from the general population in central China

Authors:
Yanhui Liao (liaoyanhui@csu.edu.cn)
Liqin Xie (104916709@qq.com)
Xiaogang Chen (chenxiaogang@csu.edu.cn)
Brian Kelly (bckelly@purdue.edu)
Chang Qi (277785701@qq.com)
Chen Pan (758933968@qq.com)
Mei Yang (ym8342@163.com)
Wei Hao (weihao57@163.com)
Tieqiao Liu (tiegezhongguo@126.com)
Fengyu Zhang (zhangf28@126.com)
Jinsong Tang (tangjinsong@csu.edu.cn)

Version: 3 Date: 20 Mar 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

PUBH-D-18-03354R2

Sleep quality in cigarette smokers and nonsmokers: findings from the general population in central China

Yanhui Liao; Liqin Xie; Xiaogang Chen; Brian C Kelly; Chang Qi; Chen Pan; Mei Yang; Wei Hao; Tieqiao Liu; Fengyu Zhang; Jinsong Tang

BMC Public Health
Dear Dr. Chizimuzo Okoli

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript again, and thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and efforts towards improving our manuscript. In the following, we have addressed the points raised by the reviewers, as detailed in blue text, below.

Editor Comments:

Please address reviewer 2's comment which is important to demonstrate the internal validity of your results. It is important to either consult a statistician on this issue, or note it as a methodological limitation of your study.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion!

Yes, we agree with the reviewer’s comments about the sampling weight. It is important to do sample weight to calculate the prevalence. Smoker rates in different age stages are different. In this study, however, we do not have the data about the population in different age stages in all divisions (13 prefecture level cities and 1 autonomous prefecture) of Hunan province. Thus, we cannot do a sample weight or prevalence adjustments. We note this as a methodological limitation of our study. Though the population characteristics of all 14 divisions are similar.

Reviewer reports:

Fengsu Hou (Reviewer 1): With revisions, the authors have answered to my comments. I have no further comments.

Response: Thank you for your comments!

Guoqing Hu, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2): I am generally satisfied with the revisions and authors' responses to my comments. Thanks for your point-to-point responses. But the response to comment 4 on complex sampling weights is weak. As the authors responded, the proportion of study subjects being selected from Hunan Province is extremely small. In this case, it is dangerous to neglect the sampling scheme to estimate the prevalence of cigarette smoking. In particular, the research objective of this study is to use the sample to examine sleep quality and sleep disturbances among cigarette smokers and nonsmokers in the general population in central China. When variations exist across factors for multistage sampling, parameter estimation and hypothetical test may be invalid sometimes.
I suggest the authors or the editor consult a statistician.

Response: Thank you for your comments!

Yes, we agree your comments about the sampling weight. It is important to do sample weight to calculate the prevalence. Smoker rates in different ages are different. In this study, however, we do not have the data about the population in different age stages in all divisions (13 prefecture level cities and 1 autonomous prefecture) of Hunan province. Thus, we cannot do a sample weight or prevalence adjustments. We note this as a methodological limitation of our study. Though the population characteristics of all 14 divisions are similar.

Thank you for your consideration of this work!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jinsong Tang