Reviewer's report

Title: The association between exposure to secondhand smoke and psychological symptoms among Chinese children

Version: 1 Date: 18 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Generally a well-written manuscript that addresses an important public health topic. A genuine pleasure to read. Methodology appears appropriate and statistics appear relatively robust. Along with the large sample size, the results are probably valid and reliable. Results are very well presented.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Introduction

- Nice and concise. Summarises literature well and provides some conceptual thinking to the relationship between SHS and mental health in youth. No specific comments here.

Methods

- Very appropriate for a cross-sectional study. Large sample size and good sampling method. My only comment is whether the measure for SHS exposure was taken from the literature, or was it generated by the authors/study designers?

Results

- How was the response rate calculated? This is very high and appears to be at the student-level? With multi-stage sampling one needs to multiple the student response rate by the school response rate to achieve the total response rate.

Discussion

- Very insightful and well-written. The authors have identified the limitations to their study and explained how and why they may affect their results.
- Perhaps a paragraph on the research and/or policy implications would be suitable given the robustness of the results and the implications for tobacco control and mental health?

**ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:**

The authors should ensure the paper is proof read and corrected by a native English academic. There are several grammatical errors and spelling mistakes throughout the manuscript.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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