Reviewer’s report

Title: Dental Care Use in Ontario: the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Efigênia Ferreira

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to examine the factors associated with dental care use in Ontario, Canada's most populated province and it utilized data from the 2014 cycle of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) conducted by Statistics Canada.

The study analyzes the self-reports of use of the dental service and the reason for its use.

Some parts need better explanation:

1. In the tables, the column "dental visit ≥ 1 year" represents only those who declared "more than once a year for check-ups"? And the column "emergency visits" represents only those who declared "only emergency care"?

So, can there be the one who went to the dentist last year, only by emergency? Or the same individual may not have used the service in the last year and did not report the emergency search? How was this usage identification made? In these cases, there may be data that are not included in the not used the service.

2. Table 1 is difficult to understand. I suggest that before each percentage is placed the n, to facilitate the understanding.

3. The authors report that the frequencies are row percentages estimated using normalized weights. If one column is the visit the dentist and the other is the emergency use, how the frequencies are row percentages?

4. The grouping of variables for analysis was proposed in the method as: Socio-demographic factors, socio-economic status, health-related factors and other health related factors.

I suggest to remain these groupings and teeth brushing frequency be incorporated in the health behavior factors. In the other health related factors, remain the other variables, including the perception of health of teeth and mouth. Thus, the groups could present better epidemiological plausibility.
Regarding the use of alcohol, in this study, the worst situation is represented by the option "At least once per week". I don’t no if this frequency could be considered risky behavior. I think we need better explanations. A hypothetical explanatory model is a fragile explanation in this case. The referenced (reference 24) study was carried out in alcohol abusive habits individuals.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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 recommend additional statistical review

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