Reviewer’s report

Title: Do demographic factors and a health-promoting lifestyle influence the self-rated health of college nursing students?

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Reviewer: ENOCH ANTO

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Manuscript Number: NURS-D-18-00116

Manuscript Title: Do demographic factors influence self-rated health and health-promoting lifestyle of college nursing students?

General comments

The manuscript is within the requirement of this Journal. Authors are the first to compare the self-rated health and health-promoting lifestyles of junior and senior year nursing students, as well as the relationship between SRH and health-promoting lifestyles, and to examine the predictors of SRH among nursing students in a tertiary institution.

However, there are few comments which when respond will improve upon the manuscript.

Abstract

Line 35; junior and senior should be "Junior" and "Senior". Similar mistakes must be corrected by authors throughout the manuscript.

Line 45-47: The mean scores for self-rated health were 3.26 (SD 0.83) and 3.19 (SD 0.76) out of 5, with no significant difference between Year 2 and Year 5 students. Does the first mean represent Year 2 and the second Year 5 in that order? Rephrasing the sentence will bring clarity.

Line 55-57: ………management score (OR: 1.128, 95% CI: 1.048-1.214) and who had experienced no family conflicts in the recent month (reference group: have family conflict) (OR: 1.645, 95% CI:1.017-2.661). It should read ………management score (OR: 1.128, 95% CI: 1.048-1.214) and those who had experienced no family conflicts in the recent month (OR: 1.645, 95% CI:1.017-2.661). Author omitted "those". Again authors should remove the information in the parenthesis ie. (reference group: have family conflict) and indicate as footnote in the specific table.

Main Text
Background

Page 4, Line 50: Authors should omit the subheading, "Self-rated health and health" if possible and introduce the information with a new paragraph.

Methods

Page 6, Line 26-31: the sentence, 'Our aims in this study were to investigate the self-rated health and health-promoting lifestyles of junior and senior year nursing students, and to identify the demographic and lifestyle factors that are contributing to their self-rated health'. Is not needed in the methods. Authors should consider removing it.

Study settings and design

Page 6, Line 36 the study was conducted in early 2018. Authors should specify the exact month in early 2018. If possible the duration interval. For instance, January to February 2018.

Ethical consideration

Page 8, Line 2; Authors wrote approval was sought from "participating institute". Authors must specify the name(s) of the institute.

Data analysis

Page 8, Line 19. It should read, An independent t-test was used to examine mean significant difference Authors omitted "mean".

Again authors chose Pearson correlation instead of Spearman Rho Correlation. It is believed that most of the scores are ordinal hence an ordinal correlation test tool was preferred. Can authors explain the reasons for their choice?

Results

Page 8 line 38-46: the information is not need in the results section. It should be an additional information of how the questionnaire was used under the method section.

Page 8 Line 19-27; line 34-35; line 52-54. Authors seems to repeat information needed at the data analysis section. Authors must consider removing. The section is results so the results must be stated with clarity.
Again authors refer readers to tables. For instance the repeated use the word, 'Please refer to Table 1, 2, 3, 4 for details' in the results section. It will be better for authors to introduce the results with a preamble. For instance, Table 1 shows........... or indicate Table 1 in parenthesis at the end of each paragraph of the stating the result.

Tables

Page 22. In Table 1 values are presented as frequency and percentages, indicating that comparison between proportions was tested with Chi-Square test. It is confusing and Authors should clarify whether they used ANOVA for other comparison as they have indicated as Table footnote. Again for variable like "Clinical practicum" there are zero (0) participants in both group comparison, however, the Chi-square performed indicated a very significant difference p<0.0001. It is believed that Chi-square performed on this will be invalid. Authors must clarify whether they considered this and if so what impact it will have on their results and discussion as well as its implication.

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

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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