Reviewer’s report

Title: Health of Syrian unaccompanied asylum seeking adolescents (UASA) at first medical examination in Germany in comparison to UASA from other world regions

Version: 2 Date: 11 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Maria van den Muijsenbergh

Reviewer's report:

Screening UASA's

Interesting study that provides a lot of important details on health behavior and diseases.

In order to get a full understanding of the study, I would like to get answers to the following questions:

Regarding methods:

1. Is this screening mandatory for all newly arrived UASA's, and if so did all newly arrived UASA's attend? If not - how were patients selected?

2. I think the study does not provide insights into the health needs, as there were no questions asked about the care the UASA's themselves wanted, nor on their use of healthcare facilities; perhaps leave that part of the research questions out

3. Were professional interpreters involved in the translation of the medical history? If not (and informal interpreters were used) please reflect in the discussion on the limitations of informal interpreters (for instance possible underestimation of mental health problems and other sensitive topics that will not be shared with informal interpreters)

4. P.5 line 116 "All diagnoses that were made within the first two quarters of medical care were counted as part of the.."I did not understand what you mean by first two quarters diagnoses at first medical examination.

Regarding results

5. The health status was not assessed by an overall health status measurement (like e.g. self-perceived health); I do not think you can say anything about the general health status of
these persons; the paragraph with the heading health status only addresses health behaviors like smoking, alcohol etc

6. Did you use any specific instrument to screen for PTSD or depression? If so, please describe; if not, then describe on what grounds the diagnosis depression or PTSD was made.

Regarding discussion

7. In the discussion you talk about preventive interventions in the clearing houses. Could you make this a bit more specific? Who should do this and why do you think these UASA's would be interested in this / participating in this? In the Netherlands it turned out to be quite hard to involve UASA's in health promotion activities, even they were addressed by peer-refugees or facilitated by having these meeting at home

8. Why would you target preventive interventions on smoking, alcohol and physical exercise and not on mental health or on sexual behavior (NB did you screen for STD's as these are highly prevalent among UASA's in the Netherlands

9. In the discussion I missed a reference to the 2018 ECD guidelines for screening on infectious diseases in refugees

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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