Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence, distribution and social determinants of tobacco use in 30 Sub-Saharan African Countries

Version: 6 Date: 6 November 2014

Reviewer: Gary A Giovino

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Major Compulsory Revision:
1. After a third read of this paper, I realized that there is a sentence in the first paragraph of the Background section that is incorrect: "Nevertheless, data from these surveys do not accurately reflect tobacco use estimates, patterns, and types of tobacco products consumed in any single region." The authors should change the incorrect sentence to: "Nevertheless, data from these surveys do not comprehensively reflect tobacco use estimates, patterns, and types of tobacco products consumed in Sub-Saharan Africa."

2. The new paragraph under "Association of smoking and SLT use with social factors among men and women has some errors. For example, "1.23 fold and 3.26 fold" seems to be incorrect - it looks from Table 4 that it should be "1.24 fold and 3.36 fold." According to table 4, area of residence was not associated with SLT use for men or women - the text implies that it was not associated with SLT use only among women. Finally, the odds of being a smoker and SLT user were elevated among men who had no religion or traditional religion. Only the odds of smoking (BUT NOT SMOKELESS USE) were elevated among women who had no religion or followed a traditional religion. The text incorrectly implies that the odds were also elevated for women who used SLT. smokeless

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests. I do some work for GATS, but I don't view that as causing a conflict, publication of this paper would have no impact on my work in GATS. I care most about getting good tobacco surveillance data published.