Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and patterns of cigarette smoking before and during early and late pregnancy according to maternal characteristics: the first national data based on the 2003 birth certificate revision, United States, 2016

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Tyler Nighbor

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the opportunity to review the manuscript entitled "Prevalence and patterns of cigarette smoking before and during early and late pregnancy according to maternal characteristics: the first national data based on the 2003 birth certificate revision, United States, 2016". I commend the author for completing this work that I think will contribute to the literature on smoking during pregnancy, particularly with the use of this large national dataset. It is my recommendation that this paper is published pending some revisions.

Overall, I found the paper to be quite compelling and the analyses to be thorough. However, there are several areas in the paper that I would suggest relatively minor revisions.

Most importantly, I think there should be more contact with relevant literature and perhaps a more nuanced statement of the contribution of this paper. For example, on pg. 5, line 106, is it the case that other studies have presented smoking prevalence among pregnant women using national samples, at least two separated by trimester/month of pregnancy? Additionally, several of these have involved characteristics that are associated with smoking during pregnancy. Perhaps the contribution here is that this sample size is much larger than those studies, and it is more recent? Here are a few articles for your consideration:


Kurti, Redner, Bunn, Tang, Nighbor, Lopez, Keith, Villanti, Stanton, Gaalema, Doogan, Cepeda-Benito, Roberts, Phillips, Parker, Quisenberry, and Higgins. "Examining the Relationship


Minor points:

Pg. 4, line 72-84 starting with "historically…” is interesting, but perhaps not entirely central to this paper. I think a succinct summary would suffice.

Pg. 5, line 88. Why is it that you present prevalence separated by race for the 1970's statistic, but then collapse for the 1999 statistic?

I'm curious as to why 95% CIs are not presented for prevalence estimates in Tables 1 & 2. Additionally, is it the case that each cell differs statistically from every other cell in these two tables?

In the discussion, if the author choses to include the above references, it would be helpful to make comparisons of the current results to those above.

Finally, in the limitation section, is another potential limitation of the results that studies using birth report data do not include women who miscarry/abort, both of which are associated risks with smoking during pregnancy? Might this also contribute to an underreporting on the prevalence of smoking? Also, given that the current study only involved a single year, do we expect these patterns identified to be stable over time?

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