

Peer Review Report

Review Report on FOUR DECADES OF RESEARCH AND POLICY IMPACT ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH: THE HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (HBSC)

Theory & Concept, Int. J. Public Health

Reviewer: Donald Nutbeam

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

An outstanding overview of 40 years of research undertaken within the umbrella of the HSBC study. The paper misses an opportunity for more critical reflection on the trials and tribulations of building and maintaining a cross-national study over a long period of time.

Q 2 Please comment on the reported results and data interpretation. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

N/A

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the editor and authors (including any comments on the Q4 Check List):

An outstanding overview of 40 years of research undertaken within the umbrella of the HSBC study. The paper provides a reader (even those with limited previous knowledge) a clear explanation of the evolution of the study and many of its major milestones, original contributions to health behaviour science and indicates its impact on health (and education) policy in many of the participating countries.

As it stands it is a good, point in time description of a vast body of work. The paper seems to indicate that it forms a part of a special edition that (presumably) would include papers that illustrate some of key issues and elements of the study that are summarised in this overview. It might be helpful to include some cross-referencing in the final revisions.

That said, the paper misses an opportunity for more critical reflection on the trials and tribulations of building and maintaining a cross-national study over a long period of time. It is inconceivable that there have not been challenges, for example, in creating a core survey instrument that is sufficiently robust to be administered in multiple languages across multiple school systems, and sufficient adaptability through the use of optional modules to meet specific national interests (and funding requirements). Offering reflection on how decisions were made and challenges solved would allow others considering multi-national cross-sectional studies to learn from this experience and provide insight into the practicalities of managing these complex studies.

More specifically, the abstract appears to have been poorly edited and needs some attention to ensure coherence.

Q 4 Check List

Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes.

Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Not Applicable.

Is the hypothesis testable in the framework of current knowledge?

Yes.

If the manuscript includes original data, are the applied methods accurate and comprehensively described?

Not Applicable.

Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

Yes.

Does the study adhere to ethical standards in the field?

Not Applicable.

Q 5 Please summarize the Theory, findings and viewpoint reported.

The paper provides a reader (even those with limited previous knowledge) a clear explanation of the evolution of the study and many of its major milestones, original contributions to health behaviour science and indicates its impact on health (and education) policy in many of the participating countries.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 6 Originality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 7 Significance to the field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q 8 Interest to a general audience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 9 Quality of the writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 10 Overall quality of the study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>