

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer #1: Extremely well designed, researched, and written manuscript. The topic is very timely in light of the increasing number of childhood asthmatics in the U.S. I applaud the author(s) for their efforts and encourage them to conduct the additional research recommended in their conclusions

Reviewer #2: The manuscript is on the important topic of asthma treatment of older school age children. The development of the SHARP program is theory based and well done. Using a randomized research design, the pilot study shows the efficacy of the program for both the children and their caregivers. I hope the researchers are able to replicate the study in another setting with a larger population.

Some suggestions for improvement of the manuscript are:

* Inclusion of a sample of the questions included in the instruments, such that the reader will have some specific idea of what the asthma knowledge, reasoning ,behaviors, and life activities the instruments address (without reviewing the Kintner articles.)

* Operational definitions of the components of some questionnaires are needed.

a. On the Student Asthma Knowledge Survey specific symptoms, stimuli, treatments and management strategies would be helpful

b. On the Reasoning about Asthma Scenarios. definitions of similar vs complex reasoning and familiar vs. unfamiliar reasoning would add clarity

c. On the Acceptance of Asthma Questionnaire, the definitions of "taking control" and "vigilance" may be unclear, thus the statement of an operational definition would be helpful.

d. On the Asthma Health Behaviors Survey, examples of risk reduction behaviors and episodic management behavior are needed.

*The author(s) need to be carefully edited the citation of sources (references) in the text. For example, 1) Page 2. Line 5: Dey (2004) and Mannino (2002) both need to list all authors as this is the 1st time this reference is used; then afterwards both need to add "et al." 2) Page 4, line 11, Baltes et al. (1980) should list all authors as the 1st time this reference is used. 3) page 5 line 2, Mountemary et al. (1990) should list all authors as the 1st time this reference is used.

CHECKLIST FOR STYLE

TITLE PAGE --

Supply running head of less than 50 characters (no abbreviations).

Remove abbreviations from running head.

Update IN-TEXT CITATION - include et al. with the Guyatt citation.