

Letter to the editor

This letter relates to the paper by Ones et al. (1) published in the December 2006 issue of *Allergy*.

This well conducted study used the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) asthma symptoms questionnaire. The ISAAC Steering Committee is happy for the ISAAC questionnaire to be used in epidemiological studies outside the ISAAC collaboration, with appropriate acknowledgement in the text of the article, as occurred in this case.

However, the use of 'ISAAC phases 1 and 111' in the title of the paper implies

that this work is part of the ISAAC collaboration which it is not. The ISAAC protocol includes registration, and methodology and data checks with the ISAAC International Data Centre (<http://isaac.auckland.ac.nz>) which did not occur with this study. The study design differs from the ISAAC protocol in that it sampled children aged 6–12 years rather than the two distinct ISAAC age groups (6–7 and 13–14 years). In particular, use of parent completed questionnaires for the children in the older part of the age group they used makes comparisons with ISAAC

data difficult as the 13- to 14-year olds self-complete the questionnaire in ISAAC studies.

Our intent is not to detract from the value of this study but to clarify its relationship to the ISAAC collaboration.

Prof. Innes Asher
Chair
On behalf of the ISAAC Steering
Committee

Reference

1. Ones U, Akcay A, Tamay Z, Guler N, Zencir M. Rising trend of asthma prevalence among Turkish schoolchildren (ISAAC phases 1 and 111). *Allergy* 2006; **61**:1448–1453.