Reviewer's report

Title: Association between social and built environments and leisure-time physical activity among Chinese older adults - a multilevel analysis

Version: 0 Date: 20 Oct 2015

Reviewer: Cindy Sit

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This study aims to examine the association between physical and social attributes of neighborhood with LTPA among the Chinese elders. The topic is important in the field and the findings can help us identify social and physical attributes of neighborhood which may in turn, encourage the elders to participate in leisure time physical activity. However, there are a few major concerns that need further attention and possible consideration.

The first concern is the possible missing of relevant literature. Cerin and her co-workers have published a number of papers that examine neighborhood characteristics and walking among Chinese (see references below). Though not examining LTPA, it might be helpful if those papers were included where appropriate as walking could also be considered as LTPA (e.g., walking for recreation) and how neighborhood characteristics influence walking/LTPA among the elders.

References:


Cerin, E., Mellecker, R., Macfarlane, D. J., Barnett, A., Cheung, M. C., Sit, C. H. P., & Chan, W. M. (2013). Socio-economic status, neighborhood characteristics, and walking within the


The second concern is participants (P3 lines 45-47). It would be helpful if the source of reference was provided. Also, how 47 neighborhoods were selected by purposive sampling talking into account diversities (lines 51-54)? This needs some more explanation.

Additionally, on P4 lines 1-2, how long was each interview conducted? What is the background of interviewers? In what ways they were trained to collect data for this group?

The third concern is the measures/variables used in the study. As some variables were chosen based on a study by Mujahid et al. (2007), the reader assumes that the measures were translated into Chinese. If yes, are there any standard translation procedures to follow? Any there any reliability and validity issues?

The final concern is the presentation of descriptive statistics prior to logistic regression analysis. It would be helpful if mean (SD) or and median (IQR) of all variables were reported. Are data normally distributed etc.?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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