Reviewer’s report

Title: Capability for reporting height and weight: a cross-sectional study of 11-15 year olds

Version: 1 Date: 25 July 2012

Reviewer: Anna Brettschneider

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods

Measurements

Fifth paragraph: You have measured the occupational status but in the manuscript you describe it as ‘socio-economic status’, ‘socio-economic position’, ‘social class’ etc. The socio-economic status is more than the occupational status. If you merely collect information on the occupational status, you should also call this ‘occupational status’.

Results

1. Description of Table 3: The response capability for BMI is missing. Did you run a model with BMI as well? Even if there were no significant results, for completeness one or two sentences which summarize the model are missing.

2. Table 2+3: There are no R-squared values for the multivariate models reported. Please add them.

3. Third paragraph: In the third sentences you write ‘OR ratio’ which should be either ‘OR’ or ‘odds ratio’. The introduction of the abbreviation is missing. To describe the results in a correct manner, you should use the term ‘odds’ instead of ‘odds ratio’. E.g. ‘had higher odds for having low self-assessed…’

Methods

1. Paragraph 5+6: Were the participants who gave no information about the occupational status the same who gave no information about the family structure?

Minor Essential Revisions

Table 2+3: In the text you write ‘reconstructed family’, whereas in the tables you call it ‘composed’. Please use the same term in both contexts.

Table 2: In the third paragraph of the results section you write ‘Here, the OR changed from 1.42 (1.05-1.92) in the crude analysis to 1.19 (0.84-1.92)’. But in Table 2 the OR (95% CI) is 1.19 (0.84-1.67). Which the 95% CI is the right one?

Statistics
The chi-squared tests are not calculated under consideration of the cluster sampling. To clarify that, please add a footnote to Table 1.

Results
Fourth paragraph: ‘For weight measuring practices an association was only observed with age.’ I can only see an association with gender in Table 2. Please correct this.

Minor issues not for publication
Table 1 In the category „Response capability for weight “ there is an inverted comma before ‘High’ which does not belong there.

Background
First paragraph: normal weight instead of normal-weight

Measurements
1. First and second paragraph: For a better readability I would put the response categories with inverted commas when describing the way how the variables were dichotomised. E.g. …were dichotomised into being measured ‘within the past half year’ versus ‘more than half a year ago’ + ‘don’t remember’.
2. 6th paragraph: spelling error ‘Family structure was categories into…’. I guess ‘categorised’ was meant.
3. 6th paragraph: Again for a better readability I would put the categories like ‘traditional family’ with inverted commas.

Results
Fifth paragraph: Please add ‘data not shown’ in brackets at the end of the paragraph.

Discussion
1. Third paragraph: ‘overestimated’ instead of’ over-estimated’.
2. Third paragraph: Please decide: ‘single parent’ or ‘single-parent’ and correct it in the whole manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.