Reviewer's report

Title: Relation between body mass index and depression: A structural equation modeling approach

Version: 3 Date: 7 March 2007

Reviewer: Fiona Shrive

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript has been improved greatly since its first submission. However, the paper still requires a significant amount of work before publication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. I would still like the dataset justified. The work uses the Ontario respondents of a national survey without any justification for the limitation to only Ontario residents. The authors must explain why they limit to only Ontario residents. The authors have explained their rationale in the reviewer responses but have not clarified this decision in the manuscript. In addition, the reasons provided - This was acceptable for the MSc thesis committee - is not a scientifically sound justification for excluding observations.
2. The paper still needs to be clarified. If the message of the paper is concerning the application of a novel modelling technique (SEM) to BMI and depression, this needs to be reflected in the objective, methods, results and conclusions. For example, one conclusion might be that SEM is a feasible modelling technique for modelling BMI and depression.
   If, however, the paper is concerning the relationship between BMI and depression then the paper needs to be written to support that objective.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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