Reviewer’s report

Title: Food Access and Perceptions of the Community and Household Food Environment as Correlates of Fruit and Vegetable Intake among Rural Seniors

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2010

Reviewer: Julie Locher

Reviewer’s report:

It was a delight to read this article. The authors pose questions that are important, timely, and well-defined. The methods are appropriate and very well described; and the data are sound. The manuscript adheres to the highest standard of reporting. The discussion and conclusions are thoughtful and support the data. Limitations of the work are clearly stated. The authors integrate their work into the findings of others. The literature review is excellent. The title and abstract clearly convey the content of the article. The writing is outstanding; the paper is extremely well-structured.

What follows are discretionary revisions which the author can choose to ignore, but may wish to consider and minor essential revisions.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Could the authors provide some speculation on some of their findings in the Discussion section? Specifically, in the case of gender and age (which are the opposite of the Brooklyn findings), why is fruit and vegetable intake higher?
2. Social support is not really discussed much. Are these variables included in their data? I know this is not a comparative study between urban and rural seniors, but might some differences be explained by having family nearby?
3. What role might gardens and canning play for these rural seniors?

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In abstract, under results, there is something missing in the sentence that begins “The inclusion of canned and frozen fruit . . .”
2. Page 15, extra space before period in second sentence.
3. In Table 3, categories are either phrases or sentences (and only one sentence ends with a period)—this is a minor matter of consistency.

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'.