Author's response to reviews

Title: A gender perspective on factors that influence outdoor recreational physical activity among the elderly

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Title: A gender perspective on factors that influence outdoor recreational physical activity among the elderly

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Please find attached the revised version of our MS 4987050132352029 . We are very grateful for the reviewers helpful comments and we hope that this revised manuscript will meet approval. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if You have any questions.

Kind regards,

Katarina Sjögren

Reviewer Tomasz Kostka

Major Compulsory Revisions

There is still one point concerning data interpretation. For example, chi square test for 2x2 table for participation of men aged 72-78 as compared to 60-66 years is 0,3128 (with Yates' correction). This is not in accord with the statement from page 8, line 2.

Response: We think that the reviewer mean page 8, line 7-8 as we do not understand the reference to page 8, line 2. On page 8, line 7-9 we have added: “The performance of outdoor recreational PA decreased significantly in the 72-78-year age group (Pearson chi-square, \( p = 0.038 \)) and in the 90-96-year age group (Pearson chi-square, \( p = 0.001 \))”. On page 8, line 15-18 we have also added: “The performance of outdoor recreational PA decreased significantly in the 81-87-year age group (Pearson chi-square, \( p = 0.000 \)) and in the 90-96-year age group (Pearson chi-square, \( p = 0.000 \)) as compared to the 60-66-year age group”. This is in accordance with advice from our statistician.

The conclusion of more rapid decline of participation with advancing age among women is not substantiated by the data presented (lack of age x gender interaction).

Response: We re-wrote this at following pages:
Page 2, line 20-21: ” Also increasing age seems to affect activities among women negatively to a higher extent than men”.
Page 10, line 7-9: “Even if no interaction was seen between age and gender the probability for activities decreased with advancing age in all age groups among women. Increasing seems to affect women more than men”.

Page 12, line 22-23: These findings indicate the importance of encouraging health-promoting activities at earlier ages, especially among women.

Page 14, line 19-20: ”Also increasing age seems to affect activities among women negatively to a higher extent than men”.

Separate data in men and women may be misleading because of very high participation of women aged 60-66 years and small number of the oldest subjects. The percentage of participation in oldest group is virtually the same (32% in men and 34% in women). Therefore, the conclusion of more rapid decline in women should be at least tempered.

**Response:** In the Discussion we have discussed limitations and benefits of the study and on page 14, line 5-8 we have discussed the participation of the oldest old and explained why this age group was included. We have also tempered the conclusion of more rapid decline in women, please see our answer above.

**Minor Compulsory Revisions**

Page 8, line 3: Factors with no significant influence?

**Response:** We have deleted this and just refer to Table IV on page 7: line 8 and 15.