Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 14 March 2010

Reviewer: Tomasz Kostka

Reviewer's report:

Sjögren K. & Stjenberg L.
“A gender perspective on factors that influence outdoor recreational physical activity among the elderly”

General presentation of the study has considerably improved. However, there are still several points to clarify.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Results

1) Presentation of results still might be improved. In Statistical analysis section it has been stated that “several different models were tested” and that “in the first model, all independent variables …were included”. It is not clear what were other models used.

2) There are still doubts concerning interaction interpretation, especially for men aged 90-96: the number of smokers/non smokers and participants/not participants was very low in some sub-categories within the whole 19 subjects group.

Repetition of results from pages 8 and 9 in Table V is redundant. One presentation of the results of logistic regression (either with all the independent variables included or stepwise) would be sufficient.

3) Table III: percentages refer to the whole population. It would be also useful to present percentages of participation in outdoor activities within each age category.

4) To substantiate the conclusion of more rapid decline of participation with advancing age among women the significant age x gender interaction should be presented in results. Phrase on page 9, line 15-16 is not enough.

Minor Essential Revisions

5) Page 4, line 10: phrase “…there is no internationally agreed definition or measure of PA.” is disputable. Definition of PA that is widely accepted has been given by the authors. There are many agreed measures of PA, ranging from PA
questionnaires to doubly labeled water method.
The same for page 13, line 9.

6) Repeating in the discussion “…both from the fourfold table and the logistic regression…” is redundant.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.