Reviewer's report

Title: Brazilian pregnant and lactating women do not change their food intake to meet the nutritional goals.

Version: 1 Date: 22 February 2014

Reviewer: Jennifer Henderson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this paper. This is an interesting paper of significance to the dietary needs of pregnant and lactating women internationally.

The paper is in general well written apart from some minor corrections detailed below. The research question and title are accurate representations of the body of the paper. The abstract is precise and consistent with the body of the work. The methods are thorough and to the best of my ability appear accurate. In particular the methods to ensure data integrity were very good. The data appear to be accurately described in the results section apart from a few minor revisions described below.

The results were discussed accurately in the discussion and conclusions and the concluding observations were pertinent. All references were cited appropriately. There are few limitations to the study and these are clearly stated.

Discretionary revisions

There were a number of grammatical errors. Those I identified were:

1. Details on sampling data collection are available in (?) Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics 2011. Is this a document? If so it needs to be cited as a reference.

Discussion –

2. Parity is an important risk factor for obesity in Brazil [22] and elsewhere [23, 24], but we have no data on eating refraining (diet?) among pregnant and lactating women in Brazil.

3. This was the first time that the food consumption of pregnant and lactating women was extensively investigated in Brazil. These results must be seen in the light of some methodological limitations. The cross-sectional design does not allow investigate (the investigation of) changes in the same women, before and during pregnancy and lactation.

4. In conclusion, pregnant and lactating women in Brazil do not adequately change their food intake in accordance with their needs, and all women, regardless (of) their reproductive cycle, have a diet of low nutrient density.
Minor essential revisions

5. Results and tables:
   a. Table 1 and corresponding text in results section: Please include p-values or state if these differences are significant.
   b. Were the differences in mean energy intake between the three groups significant? Please indicate this.
   c. Table 2: again indicate the significant differences.

6. Note: there are several references in Portuguese that I am unable to review. Do the authors have these references in English?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests