Reviewer's report

Title: Obesity prevalence in a cohort of women in early pregnancy from a neighbourhood perspective

Version: 1 Date: 1 May 2009

Reviewer: greet A vansant

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Major Compulsory Revisions
* What do the authors mean by 'absurd values of woman's weight and height'?. The participant are measured, so excluding a group may create a bias.
* Do the authors take into account the stability of the socio-economic position? They measure at one moment, indication that the woman lives in that specific neighbourhood for at least one year. Many young women are in a stage of life where they move (e.g. after marriage, job, ...). Some of them may be obese for several years, even from childhood. In this cases, obesity is not related to neighbourhood economic status. It would be better to include a variable such as 'age when they became obese'.
* Women are measured at the first antenatal visit which is in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The authors acknowledge that there might already be a change in weight. However a substantial group were seen for the first time after week 12; it seems better to exclude this group since it's almost certain that BMI already changed.
* The change for the neighbourhoods in low to high socio-economic status over the study period may be an important confounder and limits the validity of the data.
* The authors must clearly indicate what the added value of this paper is and why it merits publication.

Minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.