Author's response to reviews

Title: Using Direct Observations on Multiple Occasions to Measure Household Food Availability among Low-Income Mexicano Residents in Texas Colonias

Authors:

   Joseph R Sharkey (jrsharkey@srph.tamhsc.edu)
   Wesley R Dean (wdean@srph.tamhsc.edu)
   Julie A St. John (jastjohn@srph.tamhsc.edu)
   J Charles Huber Jr (jchuber@srph.tamhsc.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Associate Editor

We thank the Associate Editor for taking time to review our revised manuscript. We will address the comments.

Associate Editor:
These tables are not wrong but they do not provide relevant information and distract the attention from the main message of the article. Please provide good arguments for the detailed information and simplify the tables. The authors can simplify the tables (and have less tables) by reporting on the availability of fruit, vegetables, etc. and leaving out the details of the types of fruit, vegetables, etc. that are available in the homes on the different occasions (e.g. bananas, apples, etc.).

RESPONSE: Detailed information is required in the tables to show intra-household and intra-month variability in availability and amount of specific food items, which influence dietary intake. We followed the suggestion of the Associate Editor and modified the content and number of tables in the following ways:

1. Deleted original table 3
2. New table 3 (fresh fruit and vegetables), deleted specific fruits and vegetables and added names of individual types of fruits and vegetables to footnote to table 3
3. Deleted old table 5 (canned vegetables and beans) and combined into new Table 3
4. Table 6 becomes table 4; Sour cream deleted
5. Table 7 becomes table 5; eggs deleted
6. Table 8 becomes table 6; pancake mix deleted
7. Table 9 becomes table 7