Author's response to reviews

Title: Health-care workers' participation in a healthy-lifestyle-promotion project in western Sweden

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To BMC Editorial Office

Re: Health-care workers' participation in a healthy-lifestyle-promotion project in western Sweden MS: 3184877704577570

Dear Editor,
We have now revised our manuscript according to the suggestions made by the reviewers.

Reviewer 1:
Minor essential revisions
1. - What proportion retired between time 1 and 4 years later?
Answer: This is not possible to specify exactly since the personnel registers do not provide such data. At the first follow-up 2006 200 persons were no longer employed due to retirement or change of employer. At the second follow-up in 2006 the corresponding number was 318. Such persons are among the non-responders and we think it would be confusing to give these numbers.

- The number of participating hospitals and if there were non-institution employees?
Answer: 73% were working in hospitals (1 large university hospital, 4 medium sized and 8 small hospitals), 13% in primary care, 8% in dental care and 5% in central administration offices.

- Drop out rate at half time?
Answer: 15% did not respond to the first follow-up 2006 as already is stated in the text. If the reviewer means the drop out rates in the sub-populations they are: Hospitals 15%, primary care 17%, dental care 18% and central administration 15%. The differences are not statistically significant.

- Age distribution?
Answer: At baseline - 34 y 14%; 35-44 y 25%; 45-54 y 34%; 55+ 26% as shown in table 1. The age group 45-54 was slightly overrepresented among the respondents compared to the original random sample.

2. - How      no of retirees affect table 2?
Answer: Persons who left their employment (including retirement) between baseline and the 4-year follow-up are not included in the results presented in table 2. They are thus treated in the same way as other non-respondents i.e. not included in the analysed population. They are, of course, included in the description of the baseline population in table 1 and should be found in the highest age-group there.

We have made changes in line with our comments above under the heading Participants on page 5 in the manuscript. This section is marked with red text.

Minor spelling errors and improvement of the language have also been made throughout the manuscript as well as minor changes of the headings for table 2 and 3 for better clarification.
Reviewer 2:
No request for revision.

We have carefully read through the manuscript and corrected all mistakes and misspellings we have discovered. We hope that the manuscript now is acceptable for publication in your journal.

Yours sincerely, on the behalf of the co-authors

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