Reviewer's report

Title: Neighborhood fast food restaurants and fast food consumption: A national study

Version: 1 Date: 20 February 2011

Reviewer: Lorna Fraser

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Inclusion of chain FF outlets: In page 6 it states only chain FF restaurants were used as that was what was asked in the consumption question. The consumption question did include local FF restaurants so this should be discussed.

2. Measure of accessibility: 3km is a very large area to measure accessibility. Previous studies have used smaller buffer sizes such 400m and 800m which are walkable distances. It would enhance this paper if these results were also included.

3. The statistical methods are not clearly described. Is the analysis undertaken at individual level or census block level? Whilst negative binomial regression is an appropriate method to analyse count data there appears to be no adjustment for the hierarchical nature of the data, multilevel modelling should be used. If you feel that the Hausman like test is adequate this needs to be more clearly explained.

4. In the conclusions the authors state that their results contradict their hypothesis that neighbourhood FF availability increases the likelihood of FF consumption. Your results showed no association, not a negative association, so this conclusion should be reworded.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. There are also more sophisticated methods to measure accessibility, such as spatial interaction models which could be considered.

Recommendation:
Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions.

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

Level of English:
Acceptable

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

Competing Interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests’

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that i have no competing interests