Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 12 March 2011

Reviewer: Joseph Sharkey

Reviewer's report:

Neighborhood Fast Food Restaurants

Major compulsory
1. Provide definition of fast food restaurant.
2. Explain rationale for excluding all outlets except chains
3. Literature review is incomplete; there is no discussion on proximity (nearest location) vs. density
4. Review the literature regarding product changes taking place within fast food – greater offering of healthy options
5. Review of measurement approaches
6. Has the measure of fast food use been validated? Were respondents instructed as to be what constitutes “eating food”? For example, meal vs. snack or beverage.
7. Literature review needs to include sex differences
8. Suggest use of interaction variable – sex and density.
9. The results section is incomplete

Minor essential:
1. Add results section to abstract
2. How does use of non-UA equate to suburban or rural? Justify UA vs. non-UA.
3. Explain how population is a neighborhood characteristic as compared with overall neighborhood socioeconomics
4. Briefly describe survey design and sampling frame.
5. Describe “complex GIS techniques” used.
6. Considering that people travel on road networks, justify use of Euclidean buffer vs. network buffers.
7. What was the hypothesis of sex difference based on?
8. Not much discussion within “Discussion” section
9. Table are difficult to read
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.