Reviewer's report

Title: Food subsidy programs and the health and nutritional status of disadvantaged families in high income countries: a systematic review

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Reviewer: Mary Renfrew

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well conducted paper on an important public health topic. The authors have conducted a systematic review of food subsidy programmes, including RCTs, controlled trials, and interrupted time series. The topic is a difficult one to study as there are very few RCTs and heterogeneity is a challenge.

The methods used are exemplary, the findings are reported in appropriate and accurate detail, and the discussion is informative, comprehensive and balanced. The findings do shed some new light on the impact of food support programmes, identifying an increase in birthweight from two studies not included in the only existing relevant review. The recommendations are appropriate, especially in regard to the importance of longer term outcomes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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