Reviewer's report

**Title:** Family structure and breakfast consumption of 11-15 year old boys and girls in Scotland, 1994-2010: a repeated cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 2 December 2011

**Reviewer:** Barbara Fiese

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1. In the introduction, the authors state that breakfast is a family mealt eaten around the table with the whole family together. I am not sure this is really accurate. Are there published reports documenting this?

2. Please provide more detail about what constitutes a "Breakfast Club." I am concerned that national programs that serve breakfast at schools may affect your results. How can this be addressed in your analyses or at least addressed in the limitation section.

3. I have some concerns about the binary approach to the data analysis. Were the authors able to examine the range of times that youth reported eating breakfast? For example, the mealtime literature for dinnertime indicates that 3 or more times per week provides positive health benefits. The way in which the variables are constructed the authors are equating once a week with 5 or more times per week.

4. Are the authors assuming that the youth actually ate with their parents? This is not really clear from the question.

5. I think the discussion goes way beyond the findings. I would stick much closer to the findings and not discuss such factors as juvenile delinquency, etc.

6. I am not sure about the accuracy of the time spent in food preparation. The USDA has published reports that indicate time spent preparing food is closer to 40 minutes.

**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