Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between obesity, socio-demographic factors, life events, lifestyle and psychological well-being in older Europeans

Version: 1 Date: 27 November 2011

Reviewer: Chrystalleni Lazarou

Reviewer's report:

The study aims to examine associations between obesity, socio-demographic factors, lifestyle and psychological factors in elderly of two European countries. The design and the tools used for the study are described thoroughly. Please consider the following suggestions.

Background

Line 49 This is an old reference and a reference that refers to young populations. Some recent reviews for young populations conclude to a somewhat different finding.

Please see the following:


In any case, I think that references that refer to studies in old populations would be more appropriate for this paper.

Lines 70-71

There are is at least one EU funded projects that among other things do compare more that one culture in one study : EPIC Elderly http://www.nut.uoa.gr/EpicElderlyNAH/Default.asp?page=102 Please revise accordingly here and in conclusion as well.

Lines 86-87

…On the other hand , some others have employed large , representative samples, as those mentioned above…

Discussion

A general remark for the discussion is that more discussion on relative results
from other studies in elderly cohorts is expected.

Lines 366-368

I am not sure if this is the only reason. Several studies have failed to reveal such association, but they have employed other than FFQs dietary collection methods.

Lines 375-377 What might be the reason for this observation?

It would be useful to add a small section on this study's strengths and limitations. Some of them are referred in conclusion, but it'd be more appropriate to move them in the last section of the discussion.

Conclusion

Conclusion should be revised in accordance with the above suggestions (i.e. moving limitations and strengths in main discussion)

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.