Reviewer’s report

Title: Ethnic differences in perceptions of body satisfaction and body appearance among U.S. schoolchildren: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2012

Reviewer: Kirsi Pietiläinen

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript examined age, gender, and ethnic differences in body satisfaction, perceived body appearance and BMI in a large HBSC 2001 cohort. The authors found that body dissatisfaction is observed already at age 10. Females have more body dissatisfaction and at lower BMI levels than boys. Substantial differences in perceived appearance and body satisfaction across were found for the three ethnic groups examined.

The ms was fluently written and interesting. I did not find major concerns.

Minor comments:

The sampling protocol was a bit difficult to understand. Estimates of what?
“The sample was designed to provide estimates within 3 percent at 95 percent confidence with sample design effects approximately 1.4 times greater than that of a simple random sample.”

In the figures, please show legends and provide an even more clear explanation on the different lines, colors and patterns.

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'