Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Eivind Meland

Reviewer's report:

The paper is well written and clear, and highlights an important perspective for adolescent health. I have some suggestions for improvements of the paper:

1. Be consequent with the naming of the groups that are surveyed. "Whites" and "non-hispanic whites" are used inconsistently.

2. BMI is standardized according to age and gender. The paper emphasizes that afro-americans are more satisfied with greater body size. However, this might be an effect of within-group comparison. If dissatisfaction across groups should be examined, a standardization according to group would have been appropriate. If this standardization is not made, you need to discuss it more in the discussion section.

3. The authors point to the loss of positive perceived appearance among african-american boys as the most important health problem found in the present study. Why not the consistent and highly prevalent dissatisfaction with appearance and body among hispanic and whites?

4. The discussion of how to remedy the health threats the study reveals is unspecific and not based upon evidence. The authors should survey the literature more comprehensively in order to make suggestions for policies, public health care and specific school based interventions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest!