Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between neighborhood deprivation and fruits and vegetables consumption and leisure-time physical activity: a cross-sectional multilevel analysis

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Dear Reviewers,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We answered all the comments and believe the changes made to the article resulted in better explanations in the methodology and discussion sections.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Alves
Comments from Reviewer #1:

Comment 1:

The following references are not recorded according to BMC Public Health Nutrition recommendation: 3, 4,5,11, 12,13,14,16,17,18,28,31,32,37,

Answer: We corrected all references according to the journal recommendations.

Comment 2:

Supplementary Figure 1: the following sentence is not correct according to the text: 6 variables excluded due to correlations of >=0.8 (in the Figure 1). We opted to select only one from each of the subsets of variables with correlations of 0.8 or larger.

Answer: We corrected Supplementary Figure 1 by giving a more detailed account of the exclusions performed due to correlations of 0.8 or larger. Additionally, we changed the description of this procedure in the text of Additional File 1 so that it becomes consistent with Supplementary Figure 1.

Comments from Reviewer #2:

Comment 1:

I have read through the article. It’s a great study, my only issue is the study was conducted more than a decade ago. Many economic changes have occurred in 11 years. I hope their findings are still relevant and able to influence policy.

Answer: We agree that socioeconomic changes occurring during the last decade may influence the association between neighborhood deprivation and individual lifestyles related to cardiovascular disease. As such, we added the following sentence to the “Strengths and limitations” section.

... “Second, we are confident that most of our findings are still relevant in the present, even though the sovereign debt crisis that affected Portugal over the last years may have changed the relation between neighborhood deprivation and individual lifestyles linked to cardiovascular disease.”...

Comment 2:

This study contributes to judge of the potential effectiveness of health interventions directed to neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics. I’m not sure if this sentence is correctly expressed.

Answer: We agree this sentence is not correctly expressed and changed it to:

“This study contributes to judge the potential of interventions directed to neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics to prevent cardiovascular diseases.”