Author's response to reviews

Title: The associations of perceived neighborhood disorder and physical activity with obesity among African American adolescents

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Omar Khan, MD
Editor
Medical Director
*BMC Public Health*

RE: MS ID# 3109271398087128

Dear Dr. Khan,

Thank you for providing additional reviews of our manuscript entitled “The associations of perceived neighborhood disorder and physical activity with obesity status among African American adolescents” We appreciate the time taken and helpful comments from the reviewer to strengthen the manuscript. We have made the suggested minor essential revisions. We address these comments below:

Reviewer’s report
Title: The associations of perceived neighborhood disorder and physical activity with obesity among African American adolescents
Version: 7
Date: 1 April 2013
Reviewer: Joellen Wilbur

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have carefully responded to the reviewers’ comments and the manuscript is substantially better. It should make a nice contribution to the literature. I suggest a few minor revisions to further strengthen the paper.

- We thank the reviewer for the comments about the improvements made to the manuscript.

Table 2 include results of both objective and subjective measures of PA and examine by perceived disorder. Currently the subjective measure of PA is in the methods but only addressed in the discussion.
- We thank the reviewer for pointing this out. We modified Table 2 to include the information on the top three most frequent self-reported activities for girls and boys by level of perceived neighborhood disorder.
We also included a brief sentence in the results to address self-reported physical activity as follows: There were also no significant differences in self-reported minutes spent participating in physical activities (i.e. basketball, football, dance, walking) by quartile of perceived neighborhood disorder.

Table two says “Parents highest educational level”. Re-label to demographic characteristics, body mass index and physical activity by. Cluster demographics together age, ex, income, education.

We agree with the changes suggested by the reviewer. We changed the title for highest education to -- Highest Education Level Attained in the Household (by any adult) --- this wording accounts for the specific wording of the education measure administered to parents. We also clustered outcomes as recommended by the reviewer and changed the title of Table 2 as follows “Demographic Characteristics, Body Mass Index and Physical Activity by Quartile of Perceived Disorder”

Page 13 discuss the descriptive findings for example point out that 43% of the children were overweight or obese and number of minutes spent in moderate or vigorous PA were low.

We added a discussion of the descriptive findings as follows: For the current study, accelerometer data indicated that the adolescents were engaged in low levels of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (less than 30 minutes daily) and almost half of the adolescents (43 percent) were either overweight or obese.

Pg 17 An inverse association between moderate to vigorous PA and obesity status is not surprising, but expected. I suggest taking those sentences out

We thank the reviewer for this comment. We omitted the sentence as suggested.

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.