Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 4 Date: 29 November 2012

Reviewer: Augusto Cesar de Moraes

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1) In summary, I suggest that it is introduced, numerical values of the most important results;

2) The authors report that introduced the information about the parameters for calculating sample in discussion. I emphasize that these are character Methodological information therefore must be described in the Methods section. However, such information not found anywhere in the manuscript.

3) The authors report that introduced the information about the approval of the ethics committee, however, found no such information anywhere in the manuscript. This information must be entered in Sections Methods.

4) I do not agree with the explanation given by the authors to use the cutoffs for diagnoses of obesity proposed by the CDC. These cutoffs are based on percentiles, ie, measures of dispersion of the American sample. The U.S. has the highest prevalences of overweight and obesity in the world, and significantly higher than in other developed or developing countries. Therefore, BMI values are higher, consequently the points are also higher, underestimating the prevalences. And these cutoffs are higher when compared with the cutoff points proposed by Cole et al. The International Obesity Task Force, suggests that is used cutoff points proposed by Cole et al. for two reasons:

I) statistical methods used for preparation of cut points, more mathematically sophisticated, and more appropriate for the distribution in percentiles;

II) used a sample of several countries, removing the bias of sampling location.

Therefore, the authors insist that using the cutoff points of Cole et al. the classification of overweight and obesity, so that if the article is accepted, it is more palusível comparison (citation) with other area studies from other countries than the USA.

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