Reviewer's report

Title: Participation levels of physical activity programs for community-dwelling older adults: a systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 18 August 2014

Reviewer: Natasha Reid

Reviewer's report:

Study summary
Critical phrasing, grammatical, and scientific writing errors are present in this paper. The authors do not exemplify the importance of the research or relevant future directions. I recommend major revisions with a significant focus on improving the scientific writing style.

Major Revision requiring attention:
Grammatical, phrasing and scientific writing improvements throughout this manuscript are essential before the publication of this paper.

Minor essential revisions:

Abstract
Line 33: The sentence “Both proportions participants (initial participation) and completing (sustained participation) the PA program were investigated” is unclear and poorly phrased.

Introduction
Line 55: Change the word “had” in “Many PA programs had been implemented..” to “have”
Line 56-57: The two sentences linked by a comma do no link very well. Consider revising
Line 61: The word “input” in this context doesn’t seem correct, consider replacing with “knowledge”
Line 62-64: Consider writing aims in a more easy-to-read manner.

Data extraction
Line 94: Were any other characteristics examined? E.g., education, income etc?
Line 95: Consider changing the word “way” to “method”

Comment: what were the agreement rates between the reviewers? Were any quality assessments of the included papers conducted? If so, include this information in the manuscript.

Participation levels and Risk of bias
These sections are generally poorly phrased and require revision.

Statistical analysis
Line 120: Add the words in italics to the following sentence – “..correlation between participation levels and the proportion of females participatins..”

Results
Line 126-127: Non-scientific language used – revise
Line 136-137: Unclear what is meant by this sentence
Line 137-138: Non-scientific language used – revise

Discussion
Line 158 & 160: Change the word “seventeen” to its numeric – 17
Line 158: Change from “at improving” to “to improve”.
Line 172: What is meant by the use of “effective” in this sentence? Clarify.
Lines 170-175: Unclear as to the main point of this paragraph
Line 175-176: Include a space between these paragraphs to remain consistent
Line 177: Poor grammar
Lines 178-181: Poor grammar and phrasing
Lines 187-190: Poor grammar and phrasing

Conclusions
Comment: Conclusions don’t address the “so-what” factor of this research. Why is this research important? What are some future directions?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests