Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between socioeconomic factors and fruit and vegetable consumption of children in grades five and six in British Columbia, Canada.

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2013

Reviewer: Laura Forbes

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction
1. The rationale is a bit weak – what are the gaps in the literature? Why grade 5-6 students? What is the rationale for the secondary objective? Is there previous research about the other social factors?

Methods
2. There is a fair bit of missing data, particularly from the parent questionnaire (I’ll assume it’s from parents who declined to disclose this data). This should be discussed. Were only those with complete parent and child surveys included in the multiple regression model?

Discussion
3. Much of the discussion outlines relationships between income, education and other social variables, but these were not presented in the results section. Perhaps another table and another objective needs to be added to this paper about relationships between income, education and other social predictors of vegetable and fruit intake.

4. Why might FAS be related to V&F intake when other SES measures are not? FAS is supposed to be an indirect measure of SES. What else might it be measuring?

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods
1. What is the overall purpose of the SFVNP?
2. Under “Dietary Intake”
   a. Is this a web-based tool? Please clarify
   b. “Further, the need for abstract thinking is eliminated” This is vague. Is it the visual aids that decrease the need for abstract thinking? I think “eliminated” is too strong a word.
   c. Add “A previous validation study showed that” to the sentence starting “when compared with direct observation...”
   d. reference needed for Eating Well with Canada’s Food Guide
e. How were mixed dishes classified?
f. Was juice classified as a vegetable or fruit? Were potatoes and french-fries?

3. Under other social factors
   a. More details needed about what was asked in terms of parents’ perception of their child’s eating behaviours

Results

4. What were the extreme food group cut-offs based on for your outlier analysis?

5. The correlation between FAS and fruit and vegetable intake should be reported in the text prior to the multiple regression model as this appears to be an important predictor.

Discussion

6. There is very little evidence from this study to suggest there is an indirect effect of income and education on V&F intake – it may be the reason why other studies did find relationships between SES and vegetable and fruit intake – I think this is the point authors would like to make, but clearer wording is needed.

7. A bit more information about what other factors influence V&F consumption in youth would be helpful.

8. How representative was your sample of the general Canadian/BC population in terms of demographics (both children and adults) and dietary intake? Do a more thorough comparison.

9. What should future studies investigate?

Tables/Figures

10. Outlier cut-offs not needed below Table 1

11. In Table 1 it would be clearer if the recommended servings from Canada’s Food Guide had its own column and was labeled more clearly – perhaps “Recommended Food Group Servings”.

12. In Table 2 the codes for the categorical variables are not needed

13. Figure 1 depicting FAS scale results is not terribly useful. I’d rather see the correlation between FAS score and vegetable and fruit intake.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Was there any effect of the neighbourhood construct about grocery store availability on vegetable and fruit intake? It might have a stronger link than the entire scale.

**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