Reviewer's report

Title: Food and beverage portion sizes in Australian children: A secondary analysis of 1995 and 2007 national data

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2014

Reviewer: Emma Foster

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This is an interesting article which is well written and easy to read.

I have a few minor discretionary revisions.

1) In the Methods section of the Abstract you state:
   ‘The time series study compared data from two nationally representative cross-sectional surveys of dietary intake within the Australian population, aged 2-16 years. The participants were 2198 children and adolescents of the 1995 National Nutrition Survey (n=2198) and 2007 Australian National Children’s Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey studies (n=4799).
   To avoid any confusion as to whether 2007 is a year or number of participants I suggest this is restructured to say 'The time series study compared data from two nationally representative cross-sectional surveys of dietary intake within the Australian population, aged 2-16 years; the 1995 National Nutrition Survey (n=2198) and the 2007 Australian National Children’s Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (n=4799). ‘

2) In the Results Section of the abstract you say the portion size of fruits remained constant or increased, however, from the table there seem to have been a few significant decreases. Please clarify.

3) In the Results Section of the abstract you say 'portion size of most fruit and vegetables did not align with the Australian guide to healthy eating survey sizes.' I suggest this is changed to 'portion size of most fruit and vegetables were low in comparison with the Australian guide to healthy eating survey sizes.'

4) Page 8 - In the first paragraph on page 8 you state that a higher percentage of the 2007 sample were normal weight compared with the 1995 sample. It would be useful to comment on how this relates to national trends i.e was this seen only in the sample or does it reflect the trend of the population as a whole?

5) Page 9 - Final line of the results section says 'These changes affected only 42-75% of the age groups.' I wasn't clear whether this applied to reductions in drinks or also included the previous sentences about packaged foods and luncheon meats. Could this please be made clearer?

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.