Reviewer's report

Title: Setting Policy Priorities to Address Eating Disorders and Weight Stigma: Views from the Field of Eating Disorders and the U.S. General Public

Version: 1
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Reviewer: Susan Paxton

Reviewer's report:

This is important research identifies level of support for a range of possible policy initiatives to counter eating disorders and weight-based stigma. In light of the negative impact of both problems, this is a crucial step in moving policy forward.

The survey design has been very thorough. The research surveys two large samples, one a general US population sample and another, eating disorder professionals or individuals with a specific interest in the field. The survey was derived from analysis of previous policy suggestions or policies implemented in other countries, and survey participants were asked to rate each policy proposal according to likely impact and feasibility. There was widespread support for policy proposals in both samples and policies requiring school-based health curricula to include eating disorder prevention material, training for sports coaches and implementation of school-based anti weight-based bullying policies, seen as both having impact and being feasible in both samples. These findings are very valuable in highlighting directions in which policy makers are likely to have widespread support.

The paper is concise and clearly written. Addressing the queries below could enhance the paper.

It isn't clear how it is logical to combine an analysis of policies to prevent eating disorders and policies to address weight stigma under the same general umbrella, one being group of psychological disorders and the other being a discriminatory experience. The reason for combining them could to be more clearly presented. (See also last line page 7)

p.2-3 It would be helpful for the reader to articulate here what kind of policy actions are to be considered. The implication is government policy but this could be clearly stated, as any organisation can have policies.

Discussion: Why are women more supportive of these policy initiatives – does this mean the policies are less likely to be implemented – legislation tending to be a man's world? What might be holding policy makers back from taking policy initiatives in the US in light of the strong support (bottom p. 13).

p.14 para 1. How do obesity campaigns fit in here?

Specific Points
p.3, para 2 “numerous” would be a more appropriate word than “multiple”.
p.4, end para 1. The final point in this para is not really a policy in the same way as the preceding examples.
p.7 line 5, omit one “in”
p.14, para 2, omit first 6 lines – not necessary

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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