Author's response to reviews

Title: Socioeconomic and demographic factors are associated with dietary patterns in a cohort of young Brazilian adults

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Author's response to reviews: see over
22 May 2014

Paper MS: 1719737231111186: "Socioeconomic and demographic factors associated with dietary patterns in a cohort of young Brazilian adults".

Soraia PM Arruda, Antonio AM Silva, Gilberto Kac, Marcelo Z Goldani, Heloisa Bettiol and Marco A Barbieri

Dear Editor Jane M. Dalumpines,

Please find enclosed the re-revised version of our paper entitled “SOCIOECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIETARY PATTERNS IN A COHORT OF YOUNG BRAZILIAN ADULTS”.

We hope you’ll find this version suitable for publication in BMC Public Health.

Please find below the answers to the reviewer’s comments. All changes were highlighted in red in the annotated version of the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Antônio Barbieri
Corresponding author

Enc.
Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic and demographic factors are associated with dietary patterns in a cohort of young Brazilian adults

Version: 2 Date: 14 April 2014
Reviewer: Maria João Fonseca

Reviewer's report:
- Discretionary Revisions

Abstract
1) 3rd paragraph (“results”) – I did not understand why the authors showed the prevalence ratios and its 95% confidence intervals for some characteristics and for others they did not so (e.g. “households with ≥2 members”).

We added PR and 95% CI for the variable households with ≥2 members (please see line 45). However it was not possible to add PR and CI to other variables because we’ve reached the maximum allowed number of words for the abstract (350 words).

Methods
2) 5th paragraph (explanatory variables) - Family income consisted of the sum of the income of all family members residing in the household, converted to multiples of the Brazilian minimum wages for each period. So, as I understand, a family of 3 people who gains 3 minimum wages is in the same category as a family of 7 people who also gains 3 minimum wages. Have the authors tried to divide the income for the family members? Were the results the same?

In the revised version we have answered this comment. We added a new phrase to the methods section to make it clearer. Per capita family income was also calculated as the total family income divided by the number of family members (please see lines 142-143). To test for consistency, analyses were also performed using per capita family income – family income divided by the number of family members (please see lines 204-205). In analysis using per capita family income results did not change appreciably (please see line 244).
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable