Author's response to reviews

Title: The prevalence of underweight, overweight, obesity and associated risk factors among school-going adolescents in seven African countries

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Author's response to reviews: see over
August 10th, 2014

Editorial Board, *BMC Public Health*

RE: Resubmission of “The prevalence of underweight, overweight, obesity and associated risk factors among school-going adolescents in seven African countries” manuscript for review by *BMC Public Health.*

We would like to resubmit the above-named paper to *BMC Public Health.* We have revised the manuscript in order to address the comments provided by the reviewer. Only one of the reviewers had any outstanding concerns about the manuscript, so I have addressed those concerns below and made modifications to the manuscript.

All authors contributed to the project and can take responsibility for its contents. We have no conflicts of interest to declare.

I will function as the corresponding author and can be reached at the address below or by e-mail (Jason_Randall@cpe.umanitoba.ca). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this submission.

If there are any further requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reviewer's report

Title: The prevalence of underweight, overweight, obesity and associated risk factors among school-going adolescents in seven African countries

Version: 4

Date: 7 July 2014

Reviewer's report:

Underneath I have given my comments for the authors to consider.

Abstract

My former comments have been answered satisfactory. I have one additional comment:

• You use an abbreviation for Global School-based Student Health Survey later in the abstract. Pleased note that in the first sentence of the methods section.

RESPONSE: This has been added to the text

Introduction

My former comments have been answered satisfactory. I have one additional comment:

• In the sentence: “While prevalence and factors associated with adolescent overweight and obesity in the developed world have been well documented, the same is not true for the rest of the developing world”. I think you should omit “the rest of” in order for the sentence to make sense.

RESPONSE: This change has been made.

Methods

My former comments have been answered satisfactory. I have one additional comment:

• In the section: “Logistic regression reporting odds ratios (ORs) was used to determine the relationship between potential risk factors and being either underweight, overweight or obese. That is, those that were underweight were compared to the rest of the population”. I think it is a bit confusing that the underweight is being measured, but not the overweight/obese. I can see from your answer to another reviewer, that you have compared overweight and obese in one category with all others. Maybe you could add this information in the methods section?

RESPONSE: This was my intention, but I see now that I made an omission when editing the last version. I have added a sentence that explains that the overweight and obese were likewise categorized and compared to the rest of the population.