Author's response to reviews

Title: Physical inactivity and socioeconomic status in Italian adolescents

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Physical inactivity and socioeconomic status in Italian adolescents

Authors: Giuseppe La Torre¹, Daniele Masala², Elisabetta De Vito³, Elisa Langiano³, Giovanni Capelli³, Walter Ricciardi¹, & PHASES collaborative group

Answer to the Reviewer Tuija Tammelin

Major

1. We changed the title in “Extra-curricular physical activity and socioeconomic status in Italian adolescents”.
2. The abstract was rewritten following the suggestions of the reviewer.
3. We described the methods more accurately, in order to facilitate the understanding of the analyses and to replicate the work. We introduced the description of questions that were used to measure physical activity of adolescents and their parents. The economic family index was explained deeply including fig. 1. The outcome measure in the logistic regression analyses was already described in the first draft of the manuscript (participation in extra curricular activities), in the statistical analysis section.
4. Data was reanalysed and we used the following as reference groups: “non skilled workers” for work activity, and “junior high school” for educational level. The results were rewritten in a more concise way. The values (%) have been added into the figures and not to be presented in the text. In Table 2, the column with p-values was omitted and replaced by * for ORs statistically significant.
5. In the section Discussion we deeply described some of some interesting studies conducted at the international levels, giving more precise information of their methods and results. We preferred to present the relation between SES and physical activity in youth (ref 20-23, 25, 28-30) in this section in order to avoid a “heavier” Introduction.
6. In the discussion we shortly presented the strength and limitations of this study (internal and external validity), and the role played by other factors on adolescents’ physical activity.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Covariate ‘age-group’ is not described in table 2, because it was was removed in the logistic regression by the backward elimination procedure.

2. Father’s and mother’s physical activity: the group 'no' shown in table 2 is the same groups as group 'absent' in table 1
Physical inactivity and socioeconomic status in Italian adolescents

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Answer to the Reviewer Ossi Rahkonen

Major
1. We clarify the exact number of participants, both in the Abstract and in the text. Number of respondents has been moved to Methods.
2. In the section Discussion we deeply described some of the most interesting studies conducted at the international levels, giving more precise information of their methods and results. We preferred to present the relation between SES and physical activity in youth (ref 20-23, 25, 28-30) in this section in order to avoid a “heavier” Introduction.
3. In the Methods section we more accurately described physical activity measure and attitudes of the students.
4. In the Methods we brefly described the SES index and showed it adding fig. 1.
5. The educational level of housewives was as follow: elementary school 7.8%; junior high school 39.5%; senior high school 45.1%; degree 7.5%
6. In the section results we omitted several numbers. In Table 2, the column with p-values was omitted and replaced by * for ORs statistically significant.
7. Mother’s educational level were not included i the models because it didn't show statistically significant results, and it was removed in the logistic regression by the backward elimination procedure.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. We checked the language of the manuscript.
2. Multiple logistic regression is implicity used in order to adjust for other variables (for example for confounding factors); so we decided not to include this clarification in the text.
3. We replaced ‘cultural status’ with parents’ educational level.
4. Logistic regression models were conducted for hours for PA and gave similar results of the models shown. An indication was added at the end of the section Results.
5. We introduced in a new fig. 1 the way we calculate the SES family index. In that sense we believe the test is more understandable.
6. We introduced in the Conclusion the results of a review of Sallis and coll. and a new reference by Dehghan and coll. on the relation between families’ SES and PA.
7. In the discussion we deeply described the role of the school in improving PA in adolescents.