Reviewer’s report

Title: Physical inactivity and socioeconomic status in Italian adolescents

Version: 2 Date: 15 September 2005

Reviewer: Ossi Rahkonen

Reviewer’s report:

General
The authors have answered to most of my questions and suggestions.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Page 6; Data … WERE …, data is a plural term.
2. Results e.g. page 8; ‘fathers WERE significantly…’, the authors should use same tense (preferably imperfect) throughout the results.
3. The title of Table 2 should be more substantial telling us what it describes, not results but associations of something.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
1. Now I would more strongly hesitate to include housewives into non-skilled worker group when more than half of them (53%) had senior high school education or more. Housewives in Italy are well-educated and as suggested education is important in health behaviour. Could this bias the results? Would the association between SES and PA be even stronger if housewives were in the higher SES group?
2. I still think that the results section is overwhelming with exact numbers. A more relaxed writing would encourage readers to look at the results. I don’t know why the authors use decimals (is 30.1% much different than 30%?)
3. Discussion page 11-12; I couldn’t understand how the authors estimated that their SES measure was comparable with an official income levels. Did the authors have information of the income of the families?
4. Discussion page 12; A somewhat confusing sentence ‘SES is … clearly related to parents’ educational level…’ Of course it is in this paper because the variable SES was constructed ‘estimating parents’ educational levels and work activities’ (page 6). Or did I miss something?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.