Reviewer's report

Title: Acculturation does not necessarily lead to increased physical activity during leisure time: a cross-sectional study among Turkish migrants in the Netherlands

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2007

Reviewer: Kathleen Wolin

Reviewer's report:

General
This study of the association between acculturation and leisure time physical activity addresses an important question in an understudied population – Turkish migrants in the Netherlands. The authors do a nice job of laying out the background and justifying the need for this study. The study is theoretically grounded. The results are clearly presented and the discussion well organized.

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

In the abstract, clarify in either the methods or results section who the reference group is that “cultural orientation” and “social contacts with native Dutch” are being compared to.

In the introduction, the US Surgeon General’s Report is cited in the 1st and 3rd sentences. In the 1st sentence this should be supplemented with non-US references as the sentence makes a global reference. I also wonder if data more recent than 1996 is available regarding the percent of the population meeting recommended physical activity levels.

Figure 1 doesn’t add a lot to the paper. I believe the concepts in it can be concisely explained in the text.

The justification for limiting the population to ages 15-30 is unclear. It seems that distinguishing between children and adults is important, but, in that case, 18 would be a more appropriate cut off. This is reinforced on page 7 when the authors use separate physical activity recommendation cut offs for those over and under age 18. If the authors believe including those under age 15 is important, they should explore whether the associations differ for those over and under age 18.

The authors make reference to the physical activity recommendations. I assume this means the CDC/ACSM recommendations of 30 minutes of moderate or vigorous intensity activity on most days of the week. This recommendation is always operationalized as 30 minutes, 5 days per week. The authors need to justify their choice of 30 minutes one day per week.

In using the data from the Berry acculturation scale, the authors first tertile responses and then dichotomize those. Is this the recommended way to analyze the data? If not, the authors should provide justification for their choice and discuss the implications of using a validated scale in a non validated way in the discussion section.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

On page 13, middle of the page: the authors state that the barriers measured in the study are more prevalent in adults than adolescents. A citation is necessary.

Table 3: clarify the reference group in a footnote.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.