Reviewer's report

Title: Neighbourhood perceptions of physical activity: a qualitative study.

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2007

Reviewer: Ester Cerin

Reviewer's report:

General

Although the exploratory findings presented by Burgoyne et al. were used for intervention planning purposes, I do not think that they significantly add to the body of knowledge in the field of physical activity and health.

The authors adopted an ecological approach to the study of physical activity and concluded that social, individual and environmental factors were important in determining whether residents of a low income neighbourhood in Cork city were physically active or not. This is not new. Several large-scale, quantitative studies found that residents' physical activity was influenced by social, individual and environmental factors (see, for example, the work of Giles-Corti and colleagues). Moreover, recent studies even analysed the extent to which these three sets of factors can explain socio-economic inequalities in physical activity (see Ball et al., 2007). In contrast, this study was very limited in size (80 participants) and location (2 adjacent neighbourhoods), and investigated factors that have been repeatedly found to be correlated with physical activity. Additionally, it is unclear how and why the two neighbourhoods were selected and in what way the examined sample of participants is different from previous samples used in studies addressing similar issues (i.e., determinants of physical activity).

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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.