Author's response to reviews

Title: The positive association between number of children and obesity in Iranian women and men: Results from the National Health Survey

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Version: 6 Date: 27 April 2008

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**Version:** 5  **Date:** 27 Apr. 2008
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Thanks again for reviewing our manuscript. We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s minor comments. I wish it suits you for publication.

**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The positive association between number of children and obesity in Iranian women and men: Results from the National Health Survey

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 13 April 2008  
**Reviewer:** Rebecca Hardy

Minor essential revisions

1. The Results section of the abstract does not appear to have been edited. I would suggest first stating that number of children was associated with obesity in men and women. Then listing the other variables also found to be associated with obesity.

   *The reviewer is correct and the Results section of the abstract now appears as:

   **Results:** We infer that each additional child has at least 5% and at most 34% increase in the odds of obesity in men and at least 4% and at most 29% increase in the odds of obesity in women. Our test of interaction by sex showed that the association between the number of children and obesity was not different among men and women. Among women, factors that increased obesity included age, low education, having more children, being inactive workforce and being nonsmoker. Among men, these factors included high economic index, low education, having more children, and being nonsmoker.

2. Delete “a report” so line reads “…to estimate the odds of obesity as a function…” (page 6, line 3 of statistical analysis). It is stated that height and weight were measured so obesity outcome is not “a report”.

   *Change made as indicated by the reviewer.

3. The sentence beginning “A recommended practice is to use…” is unclear and should be reworded for clarification (page 6, line 13-15).

   *The reviewer is correct and we have deleted this sentence.

4. Add a sentence in the results (page 7) indicating that the OR in women decreased after adjustment for confounding variables, whereas that for men increased slightly.
Comparing two models, we found that the obesity odds ratio in women decreased after adjustment for confounding variables, whereas that for men increased slightly.

5. Add word “the” in second sentence (page 9), i.e. “In the first model…”

*The reviewer is correct and we have added word “the”.

6. Add “after adjustment for confounding variables” to sentence “Number of children is positively associated with obesity in both sexes” (page 9, line 7).

*The reviewer is correct and we have added “After adjustment for confounding variables”.

7. The sentence beginning “It is also possible, weight gain…” (page 10, line 12) does not make sense and should be edited for clarification.

*The reviewer is correct and we have deleted this sentence.

Discretionary revisions
1. Clarify what the authors mean by “other people” (page 11, line 2). To what populations do the authors believe their findings can be applied?

*The reviewer is correct and the last sentence of discussion now appears as:

This study included couples aged 20-75 years who lived in Tehran province but our findings may be generalized to other provinces as well.