Reviewer's report

Title: Scale Development: Factors Affecting Diet, Exercise, and Stress Management (DESM)

Version: 2 Date: 22 January 2008

Reviewer: Marilyn S. Townsend

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper. You have completed an extensive study with multiple components. Given the large number of USDA dollars spent for WIC, EFNEP, FSNE and Head Start, your findings will be useful to many practitioners in these programs. Please add line numbers for your reviewers convenience.

Abstract
If DESM is the name of the scale, where does 'factors affecting' belong?
What is the basis for the sample size of 216?
MIMIC model is introduced as an abbreviation.
The first sentence in the conclusion does not make sense.

Page 5 line 8-10
Reword for clarity. The Campbell communication does not match with refs 21-3.

Page 7 lines 10-11
Rewrite sentence.

Page 9 line 7-8
Revise for clarity.

Page 7
Phase 1 is introduced with a purpose sentence. please use the same procedure for phase 2.. I do not know what you are trying to accomplish without reading pages.

Page 10
Define composite construct reliability.

Page 14
Given the sampling method (convenience) and the study design, stating that
these results apply to low-inc AA and white mothers in community steeings is too strong. The implication of your statement is that you mean all women in this category. You have provided no evidence for the external validity of your results beyond the 216 women in your study. If you have this evidence, state it (beyond the 3 Michigan counties). At best, your results might apply to low inc AA and white women in Michigan.