Reviewer's report

Title: Association of socioeconomic status with overall overweight and central obesity in men and women: the French Nutrition and Health Survey 2006

Version: 2 Date: 21 April 2009

Reviewer: Marie Aline Charles

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1) Number of subjects included in the description in table 1 needs to be provided: Is it based on the 3,115 adults who participated in the food consumption survey, on the 2,413 subjects with anthropometric measurements or on the 2204 subjects with complete anthropometric and SES characteristics?

2) The weighing corrected distortion between the sample and national data only for age, educational diploma and presence of a child at home. It is therefore important to compare the sample of the 2204 subjects with complete anthropometric and SES characteristics to the closest national reference for other major sociodemographic characteristics such as gender, region of residence, size of the city of residence, occupation (and again on age and diploma if description in table 1 is not restricted to subjects with anthropometric data.

3) As age is strongly associated with overweight and obesity, tables 2 and 3 should be presented with adjustment on age as a continuous variable. As acknowledged by the authors in their response and in the discussion, with such an adjustment, there was no longer an association between the risk of overweight and retirement in men.

The excess risk associated with educational level in women or holiday trip during the past 12 months may also be affected by a better age adjustment. It is not clear from the authors’ response whether it has been checked or not.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) Conclusion of the summary: the sentence “The prevalence of overweight and obesity was found to be lower in France than in most industrialized countries” needs to be replaced by the corresponding sentence in the conclusion of the article: “The prevalence of overweight and obesity was found to be similar to that of several neighbouring western European countries, and lower than the UK and eastern Europe”.

2) I find the added sentence p 10 ‘ a low employment position is associated with less time for leisure and physical activity’ unclear. Low employment positions are associated with higher occupational physical activity. On the other hand, it is not obvious that they are associated with less time for leisure activities as time spent at work is usually shorter than for higher socioeconomic positions but time spent
in house chores is usually longer.

3) Sentence about measurement location p 8 needs to be moved to the method section.

**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