Author's response to reviews

Title: Body Satisfaction and Body Weight: Gender Differences and Sociodemographic Determinants

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Melissa Norton, MD
Editor-in-Chief
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Dear Dr. Norton:

Please find attached our revised manuscript “Body Satisfaction and Body Weight in Children: Gender Differences and Socioeconomic Determinants” (MS# 3606032232682854). We have revised the manuscript to address the concerns raised by the reviewers. Specific revisions are described below, and substantially revised text is denoted with underlining in the manuscript.

Please let us know if you would like any additional revisions. We hope you will seriously consider our manuscript for publication as an original research article in BMC Public Health. We will look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

S. Bryn Austin, ScD
Response to Reviewers
“Body Satisfaction and Body Weight in Children: Gender Differences and Socioeconomic Determinants” (MS# 3606032232682854)

Reviewer 1
General Comment: As suggested by the reviewer, we have changed the term “body image” to “body satisfaction” throughout the manuscript.
1. Also as suggested, we have revised places in the text where we referred to SES to be more specific in referring to parental educational attainment where appropriate.
2. As mentioned above in response to comment #1, have corrected the use of “SES” to instead read “parental education” throughout the manuscript where appropriate.
3. Throughout the manuscript, we have corrected the punctuation so that reference numbers fall inside the punctuation.
4. On page 5, at the end of the first paragraph under Methods, we have clarified our classification of overweight and obesity with the added sentence: “Overweight and obesity were classified using the International Obesity Task Force sex- and age-specific standards for children (27).”
5. We thank the reviewer for calling our attention to research on body dissatisfaction in the international Health Behaviour of School-Aged Children study. We have added discussion of a paper examining this topic published this year by Al Sabbah and colleagues. The following new text can be found at the bottom of page 8 in the Discussion section of our revised manuscript:
   In the 24-country Health Behaviour of School-Aged Children study, Al Sabbah et al. found in Canadian youth ages 11, 13, and 15 years old that difficulty communicating with both their father and mother was associated with increased risk of body weight dissatisfaction in girls (Al Sabbah et al., 2009). It is possible that problems with family communication may be one factor underlying the observed association in our Nova Scotia sample between low parental educational attainment and poor body satisfaction in girls.
6. Regarding the figure, the reviewer noted the descendant slope of the lower bound of the 95% confidence interval around the line depicting the relationship between BMI and prevalence of poor body satisfaction and asked whether the descendant slope might be suggestive of a reduction in body dissatisfaction among the most overweight girls. While this is an interesting hypothesis, we interpret the fanning out of the upper and lower bound of the 95% confidence interval (where the lower bound descends as steeply as the upper bound ascends) to instead indicate a reduction in precision of the prevalence estimate at the highest BMI range due to the small number of girls with extremely high BMI.
7. As mentioned above in response to comment #6 regarding the figure, we interpret the fanning out of the 95% confidence interval to be indicative of a reduction in precision rather than a reduction in body dissatisfaction among the most overweight girls.

Reviewers 2 and 3
We thank both reviewers for your kind remarks.