Author's response to reviews

Title: Characterization of body weight and composition changes during the sophomore year of college

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Author's response to reviews: see over
My co-authors and I would like to thank the reviewers for their time and effort in reviewing this manuscript. Their comments are greatly appreciated and changes have been made in **bold** within the manuscript. We have attempted to address issues made by the reviewers and feel the manuscript is better as a result of these comments and suggestions. We now hope that the paper is acceptable for publication in *BMC Women & Health*.

**REVIEWER: Randall Gretebeck**

*Minor Essential Revisions*

Thank you for your comment and we agree that the use of factors in the title implies more than one issue impacting the changes described in the manuscript. The title has been changed to “Characterization of body weight and composition changes during the sophomore year of college”.

*Discretionary Revisions*

We agree with the reviewer that examining the difference in changes that occurred between the academic period and summer period is important. In fact, our group has written a manuscript to address this issue that is currently in press. Adding this in the discussion section to this manuscript may veer off the topic and aims of this manuscript and add to an already lengthy discussion section.

Thank you for your comment regarding figure 1. We could show a separate graph with the differences based on the sophomore year (essentially the results shown in Table 4) however due to only 4% of our sample living off campus during the freshman year, a graph split for all 4 visits by housing would not be meaningful. Not until after the completion of the freshman year did students move off campus.

**REVIEWER: Daniel Hoffman**

*Minor Essential Revisions*

1. RESULTS: Thank you for your suggestion. The first paragraph describing the sample has been moved out of the results section and into the methods section under the subheading of participants (second paragraph).

2. DISCUSSION: The inclusion of results from the current work reported in this manuscript was done solely to relate to prior research for comparison purposes. We feel including these results makes this part of the discussion section easier to read to compare our findings to other studies we are citing within the discussion section.

3. DISCUSSION: Thank you for your comment. Paragraph 2 on page 9 has been reworded for clarification to include a summary statement at the end of the paragraph. Again, inclusion of results within the discussion section is only to aide the reader for ease of understanding the discussion. However, some of the results were removed as only giving the direction of the change in outcome (body weight, fat mass, etc.,) was sufficient for reader understanding of the discussion points. Therefore, values reported within the results section we felt were unnecessary have been removed.
4. CONCLUSIONS: The reviewer is correct, we did not calculate relative risks. The results statement has been changed to state strictly what the results found.

5. Thank you for your comment. The significance level has been changed from $P \leq$ to less than ($<$).