Reviewer's report

Title: Disparities in fruits and vegetables consumption by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Canada

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2011

Reviewer: Warapone Satheannoppakao

Reviewer's report:

Journal: Nutrition Journal
Type of article: Research
Title: Disparities in fruits and vegetables consumption by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Canada
Authors: Mesbah F Sharaf and Sunday Azagba

This article is crucial in Public Health Nutrition field. The findings can be used for nutrition and healthy promotion, building the nutrition related policy, etc. However, many points must be clarified before resubmitting.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. INTRODUCTION or BACKGROUND: On page # 3 and at lines #47-48, the authors DID use both “servings” and “times” to report quantities of fruit and vegetable intake. Seriously, “servings” word is used to tell amount of foods one eats, while “times” word is usually used to inform a frequency of eating foods. These two terms are different in meanings. Not only in the introduction part, but also in other parts, authors use these two terms interchangeably.

2. DATA: This section should be described under “METHODS” section.

3. METHODS: Method written in this article focuses only on a method of statistical analysis. Necessary information is ignored. For example, no instruments used for collecting data or data collection methods are mentioned. Importantly, regarding fruit and vegetable intake, there are many ways or tools used to assess the amount of fruit and vegetable consumed, e.g. 24-hr recall, 3 or 7 day-food record, food frequency questionnaire, for example. Which one was chosen? Generally, the ways related to data collection can affect the findings, and the authors can utilize them for discussion Therefore, they cannot be overlooked.

Due to being a nationally representative survey conducted in Canada, ethical approval and survey participant consent had been done; I believe. Thus, please add aforesaid information in the methods section. Clear description of methods is quite needed.

4. RESULTS & CONCLUSION: The results section should be concise. Only key outcomes should be displayed here. It will be more effective, if the power of
There is one more doubt, but it is very significant. Is “discussion” included into the “results” or “conclusion” sections? I found “discussions” in both sections. It is hard to understand. Discussion is one of very important parts. Re-arranging contents must be required.

5. OTHERS: There are no keywords shown in this research article. According to the author’s guideline, “three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article should be given”.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. TITLE: The title “Disparities in fruits and vegetables consumption by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics in Canada” properly covers the research article’s main content. However, for phrase “fruits and vegetables consumption” should be replaced with fruit and vegetable consumption. “S’s” should be removed. They are “Noun” functioning as adjective.

2. REFERENCES. Writing references should follow the Nutrition Journal’s reference style. However, many references are still incorrect format. They include Reference#7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 22. Please make sure that correct format is carried out before resubmission.

3. Table 1: As I presume, both authors would like to inform the readers about specific definition of terms used in this article and demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of surveyed population. It is essencial information. However, its title “Summary statistics” could not convey authors’ intention. If my aforementioned thoughts are right, reediting Table 1 title is recommended. Furthermore, authors use mean and SD to describe demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. However, as I read in details under the “RESULTS” heading, the numbers shown in Table 1 are propotion or percentage, right? Well, overall, this Table is not understandable.

4. Table 2: Table title and some variables are not clear. In addition, units of independent variables are omitted. Thereby more information should be added.

5. Figures: Regarding Figure 1, quantity of fruits and vegetables consumed is measured as serving size. Hence, authors must enter the reporting unit “serving” at both its title and Y-axis. Also, to be more appropriate, figure legends must go below figures.

6. In the whole picture of this article, the writing is acceptable. Nevertheless, some typing errors are found. Rechecking and reediting have to be done.

Discretionary Revisions

1. ABSTRACT: It makes the picture understandable what authors did. Nonetheless, some sentence is too long.

2. Suggestion: On page#2 at line#23, “…those middle aged…” should be replaced with “…those in middle age…” or “…middle aged people…”
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'