Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing dietary intake among infants and toddlers 0-24 months of age in Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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Reviewer: Dan Ramdath

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript outlines the process used to characterize food and nutrient intake among toddlers aged 2-24 months and further uses this information to develop a population specific tool for assessment of dietary intakes in this age group. This work is highly relevant to infant nutrition as there are few studies that have focused on accurately assessing the dietary intakes of young children. There are several concerns that arise from the manuscript in its current form and these should be addressed before acceptance for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

pg 4 - The authors justify the use of 24 hr recalls for the development of population specific FFQ by making reference to several self-sighted publications that studied adult populations. More appropriate references should be cited and evidence advanced for the use of 24 hr recalls to develop FFQ in infants.

pg 4 - The sampling strategy appears to be one of convenience sampling. As such, to what extent is the sample used representative of Baltimore infants and toddlers?

pg 7 - The response rate of about 53% (73/138) seems quite low. The authors should explain how this might have affected the representativeness of the population for which the FFQ was intended.

pg 8-10 - The authors make statements about the extent to which the children met DRIs. Although this is listed among the limitations of the study it seems unreasonable to comment on the adequacy of dietary intakes based on a single 24 hr recall. At very best the adequacy of macronutrient may be estimated, but to make statements about micronutrients (eg Table I) seem far fetched and ill advised. These should be corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract: the conclusion outlines how the results of this study were used rather than what the results mean as is expected in a concluding statement.

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