Reviewer's report

Title: Dieting practices, weight perceptions, and body composition: A comparison of normal weight, overweight, and obese college females

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2006

Reviewer: William Landis

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Discussion section needs to be expanded to include more on how there results compares with previous research

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. pg 5, In 7 "oftentimes" - often times
2. pg 7, Design: mention total # of students in the study.
3. pg 9, middle: Mention whether the same examiner took measurements on the same subject each time.

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. pg 6 bottom, pg 7 top: don't see need for these statements that "health related conse. are not absolute (not every develops lung cancer...) Makes it sound like smoking is not all that bad, suggests wrong message. Smoking can cause many other health problems beyond cancer, as well. Don't see this part essential to paper.
2. pg 8, top: "Initially, the university..." - get rid of "initially". Makes it sound like IRB status changed.
3. pg 10: personally, I think its distracting and too much detail to include F-values in the Results narrative. Seems more appropriate in tables.
4. pg 11, top: eighty-three -- 83
5. pg 13 P before Conclusions: "skipping breakfast." the most unhealthy diet practice - seems like vomiting and lax are as bad or worse (?)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.