Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of singlehood during pregnancy on dietary intake and birth outcomes - a study in the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2014

Reviewer: Jane Willcox

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. It is pleasing to see a paper focusing on singlehood in pregnancy.

I make the following comments for consideration in the review of this paper.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Research question and aims
I found it difficult to align the two different aims and lines of analyses in the paper.
   a. Comparison of dietary intake
   b. Comparison of birth and foetal outcomes

These seemed to me to be two separate lines of enquiry only linked the adjustment for energy and protein in one adjusted analyses.

I wonder if it would serve the paper better to solely focus on nutrition related adjustments to link the first and the second analyses or drop the second one altogether. They may even fit well as two separate papers, each with its own interesting story. The links between the two lines of inquiry needed to be discussed comprehensively in the method and discussion to tie it together.

Minor essential revisions

1. The document changes in tense throughout. Please check for consistency.
2. Line 134. Why did you choose p<0.100?
3. Continue to use your abbreviations eg singles living along through the document to make it less wordy
4. Often the discussion section repeats large amounts of the results. Start the discussion with a brief summary of the results then discuss the salient points.
5. Tables 2, 3. I wonder if it would read better if the p values were in the column next to the data they represented?

Discretionary revisions

1. Line 73 “fetched” maybe reword to “collected”?
2. Line 142 reword
3. Line 147 reword

4. You know the data well. I would have loved some more suggestions for future research.

5. In the tables could you please highlight the significant values?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.