Reviewer's report

Title: Australian children's consumption of caffeinated, formulated beverages: a cross-sectional analysis

Version: 3 Date: 20 November 2014

Reviewer: Amy Branum

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions
1. Discussion section p. 13 lines 283-289: I still think the Authors are overstating the relative importance of CFB relative to SSB as it pertains to obesity and overweight. The discussion through this section implies that children and adolescents are drinking SSBs because the caffeine content makes them addictive and not because of the taste or other preference. I think this could be debated. In lines 284-285 it is stated that consumers of CFB had higher energy intakes and were more likely to be overweight and obese but since SSBs account for such a high proportion of CFBs, it is not clear if the association is due to SSB consumption vs. CFB consumption in particular, and since the Authors did not test for differences between CFB and non-CFB-SSB consumers, it is hard to know what the important association is. In general I would still encourage the Authors to modify the text regarding associations between CFB and overweight/obesity.

2. Discussion, p. 14, line 295: The Author state that CFB consumption significantly increases total caffeine intake but this seems pretty obvious. Why would consumption of a food or beverage with caffeine not increase total intake?

3. Limitations section, p. 15, lines 325-328: The description of the survey in this section makes it hard to tell if the survey was really nationally representative or not. It says it was based on a nationally representative sample but then end results do not appear to be representative. I think this needs more clarification.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests