Reviewer's report

Title: Household food insecurity, diet, and weight status in a disadvantaged district of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: A cross-sectional study

Version: 2  Date: 11 December 2014

Reviewer: Mallory m Koenings

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions
1. Background; Consider editing the last sentence of the background to “In addition, to examine the potential associations…”

2. Methods; Data collection; Food security status; consider compiling a supplemental table that lists Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Viet Nam alongside their corresponding development indices.

Minor essential revisions
1. Recommend using the direct quote in the abstract.

2. Recommend mentioning the ELCSA in the abstract by name. Use of this tool in a novel population may be of particular interest to some readers.

3. Methods; Sample and sampling methodology; Please indicate the total number of households in D8 that were identified as well as the number of households in each ward (W2, W8, and W15) that were sampled.

4. Methods; Data collection; please add citations after the last sentence in the first paragraph of this section.

5. Methods; Data collection; Food security status; How many items are in the ELCSA tool?

6. Results; Food insecurity; These percentages add up to 34.4%, not 34%. Please clarify.

Major compulsory revisions
1. Abstract, results and tables; Odds ratios less than 1 are very difficult to interpret in both an accurate and meaningful way. Consequently they are commonly interpreted incorrectly. Consider, for example, changing your reference value from consuming fruit “less than every day” to consuming fruit “every day” and repeating logistic regression analyses so that the odds ratio for consuming fruit “less than every day” vs. “every day” (reference value) will be greater than 1. Alternatively, you could calculate the relative risk ratio of all odds ratios, present, and interpret these values in the manuscript. Instructions for converting odds ratios to relative risk ratios can be found here: Osborne, JW. Brining balance and technical accuracy to reporting odds ratios and the result of logistic regression analyses. Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation.
2. Tables; Please indicate which statistical tests yielded the p-values and ORs shown by adding footnotes to all 3 tables.

3. Discussion; In paragraph 7 please add the reference for sentence 3.

4. Discussion; Consider discussing the relatively small sample size and use of the same question to capture both SSB and alcohol intake along with other study limitations.

Not for publication

References; Suggest reviewing a few references for issue number and website accessed dates. 1, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32 (journal name), 38, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 49, 54.

Background; Suggest that a copy editor review the last sentence in paragraph 2.

Methods; Data collection; please change “data was” to “data were” in this paragraph. Also in this paragraph consider rephrasing the second sentence to “The final questionnaire was comprised of previously validated items.”

Methods; Data collection; please change the first word in the second paragraph to “participants”

Methods; Data collection; Vegetable and fruit intakes; the word “are” is not needed in the last sentence of this paragraph.

Results; Food insecurity; The second to last sentence in this paragraph may read more clearly if it were changed to “significant association that remained was between”.

Discussion; In paragraph 3, sentence 1. Suggest rephrasing to “There were no associations… multivariate level in our sample.”

Discussion; In paragraph 3, last sentence. Suggest rephrasing to “… consumed by those with higher incomes in these countries.”

Discussion; In paragraph 5, sentence 1. Please add a comma before the word “but”.

Discussion; In paragraph 6, last sentence. Suggest rephrasing to “… reduce ability of households to access affordable foods needed for health.”

I enjoyed reviewing this manuscript. While it is not ready for publication in its current form I encourage the authors to revise the manuscript. This is an interesting study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests