Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Correlation between mean body mass index in the population and prevalence of obesity in Brazilian capitals: empirical evidence for a population-based approach of obesity.

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
March 12, 2015

Re: MS: 7564078341440523

Dear editor of BMC Public Health,

We thank reviewers for the comments. We hope that the paper is clearer now. Changes are indicated as follows:

Reviewer 1: Oscar Fernando Herran Falla

1) After reviewing the clarifications made by the authors, I believe that the report is ready to consider publishing. The relationship between means and percentages may have methodological alternatives such as Kernel densities.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for this suggestion, but we do not see a need for smoothing the distributions in this paper, as we believe that they are already fairly smooth (please see the figure).

Reviewer 3: Ruth Kimokoti

1) “Methods” section. Clarify the following:

a) Page 4, lines 46–47: Provide a reference for obesity criteria.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for this point and have added a reference for the obesity criteria (page 4, line 47).

b) Page 5, lines 60–62: How the age groups (younger and older) were determined.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for this question. We used what we thought would be the natural cut off point at age 40 years to classify age groups into 20-39 and 40-59, thus creating 20-year age strata.

Thankful for your careful review,

Yours sincerely,

The authors.