Reviewer's report

Title: A stitch in time saves nine? A repeated cross-sectional case study on the implementation of the intersectoral community approach Youth At a Healthy Weight

Version: 2
Date: 25 July 2015
Reviewer: Elizabeth Reifsnider

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The majority of the essential revisions consist of needed clarifications so readers from all countries can use the data reported to evaluate their own studies.

1. However, one major revisions is to please clarify if the IACO is a government supported program, and if it consists of one manualized intervention or is a set of guidelines that can be adapted to fit different users. If the IACO consists of diverse programs, that needs to be clarified in the data report especially how the different programs interact with the organizations to which they were applied. If a set of guidelines, were the guidelines consistently applied to all organizations.

Minor 2. The word 'instated' in not in common usage in American English. More commonly, the words instituted or installed are used.

Major 3. The use of adherence in the 1st research question can introduce confusion. Often adherence is seen as how closely the participants of a program follow the recommendations and fidelity is seen as how well the intervention is delivered to the participants. But the RQ is stated on implementation (which is more similar to fidelity) while the body of the text reflects participant adoption of program. Please clarify the RQ and throughout the text, clarify when you measured how well the intervention components were delivered to the participants and when you measured how well the participants followed the components successfully.

Minor 4. RQ 2 a is unfinished and needs to have supporting documentation inserted.

Major 5. Can you provide an overview of the Saunders et al. framework so the reader does not have to look it up?

Major 6. Clarify if the research instruments were changed following each wave, as seems to be indicated stating that they followed local developments.

Minor 7. Please supply coding for the 'yes' and 'no' responses, e.g. 0=no and 1=yes.

Minor 8. Under the Results section, please indicated by whom the key activities were intended to be continued, individuals or organizations.

Minor 9. You mention priority during the study. Was data collection or intervention implementation the priority?

Minor 10. Under general findings, educational and health care sector are stated
in singular fashion but reported as 2 separate sectors. Please indicate if singular or plural (i.e. both education and healthcare, or them separately).

Major 11. Under the section for Educational Sector implementation, adherence for school A is listed as both declining and risking. In table 3 where levels of adherence is diagrammed, more explanation needs to be supplied in text about why the adherence levels changed so much across time, rising and falling in no discernible manner.

Major 12. Throughout manuscript, please refer to the appropriate table where it is discussed in the text to guide the reader for clarification.

Minor 13. What kind of gadgets were used? Gadget generally means a mechanical device.

Minor 14. Quiet is used in the quote but it should be 'quite'.

Minor 15. What is a household store? Is it where household cleaning supplies are sold? That is not a common term in US. Perhaps you mean neighborhood grocery stores?

Major 16. In the discussion section, a discussion of adherence in general welfare sector seems to be missing.

Minor 17. The paragraph on causal configurations contains a lot of important information but needs to be expanded. The finding about configurations and barriers/facilitators can be a major contribution to the literature.

Minor 18. For Table 2, please clarify in text why there were more interviews in school B and C than in School A. For Table 3, the addition to % at the head of the column rather than in legend key will make it more obvious to what the numbers refer. Table 4 is useful information and good data. For Table 5, provide a key that statements in red = barrier and statements in green = facilitators.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 I have no competing interests