Reviewer's report

Title: When children play, they feel better: Organized activity participation and health in adolescents

Version: 3 Date: 10 August 2015

Reviewer: Diana Santos

Reviewer's report:

The authors pose an interesting question in the manuscript, using a database of a well-designed study.

The results section could be improved to follow the topics that are discussed in the discussion section. Some statements that are made in the results are not statistically based.

Overall the manuscript is well written and the topic is interesting and has some practical implications.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. The use of uncommon abbreviations makes the paper difficult to read (e.g. HYS, OLTA), if possible use the complete form.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In table 1 please include above the category inactive, the active category with an * reporting that it is referring to “at least 1 activity”
2. P.8, line 3-4: Are the mean and SD presented referring to the mean of activities that youth were engaged? Please clarify

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. p.8, line 4: “The rate of participation declined with increasing age”; “Team sports were the favourite organized activity in boys, while girls preferred artistic pursuits”… the author should include statistical analysis to make these statements.
2. Table 3: it is not clear how youth reporting more than 1 activity were handled in these analyses.
3. Include in the results the number of youth that were involved in multiple activities by categories (2, 3, 4, 5, 6). It would be interesting to understand the associations of the number of activities (0 to 6, regardless of the activity) with the dependent variables. (as mentioned in the discussion: p. 11, line 12-14).

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