Reviewer’s report

Title: Promoting active travel to school: a systematic review (2010-2016)

Version: 0 Date: 03 May 2017

Reviewer: Sarah Rodgers

Reviewer's report:

This is a nice update to check what has happened over the past few years in terms of interventions promoting active travel to school. Unfortunately it seems as though little has changed and will therefore only be of moderate interest. The large percentage of papers from the additional backwards/forwards search makes me wonder if the original search was too tightly focused.

I was not encouraged to read the paper from the abstract alone. I think more could be made to draw out the theoretical scoring added by this new paper, and particularly their subsequent recommendations. Any word limits could be adhered to by writing more succinctly.

The paper makes much use of the previous 2011 Chillon et al. paper and would be better written with a little more emphasis on the current results. For instance, in the conclusions authors express their results in terms of changes or "remain unchanged" but I am not familiar with the original review so this holds less meaning to me. In terms of positive, no effect, mixed effects the authors have ordered them differently for the 2 reviews, which is confusing. It would also be good to see percentages to standardise between the potentially different time periods for each review.

The writing is reasonable but could be tightened somewhat. For example, the very long sentence preceding ref 43 needs punctuation. Sometimes the authors refer to themselves as researchers, at others authors. In places it reads much like a doctoral chapter review. It also would be helpful if the scoring scales and directions were given for the intervention stage and global rating tables. Some of the tables are a little 'clunky' and would likely benefit from a redesign, including a colour coding system. This is particularly true of table 4.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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