Author’s response to reviews

Title: The prevalence of overweight and obesity among Iranian military personnel: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

Yahya Salimi (salimiyahya@yahoo.com)
Maryam Taghdir (mtaghdir@gmail.com)
Mojtaba Sepandi (msepandi@gmail.com)
Ali-Akbar Karimi Zarchi (alikarimi_in1@yahoo.com)

Version: 1 Date: 28 Oct 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

We appreciate the editors of BMC Public Health for providing us the opportunity to revise and resubmit this manuscript and look forward to hearing from you soon.

We would like to thank the reviewers for their comments, which were very useful in the process of improving the manuscript. We have revised our manuscript based on their comments (track change text) and detailed our response to each reviewer. See the comments below:

Reviewer reports:

Priyamadhaba Behera (Reviewer 3):

"Nowadays, obesity and overweight could be considered as one of the major public health concerns in all of the age groups, worldwide"-Replace the first sentence with better sentence along with appropriate reference.

Thanks, it has been done. Now it reads as follow; “Global data indicate that overweight and obesity are one of the major public health concerns in all of the population age groups.” The appropriate reference provided.

First-paragraph of Background and Conclusion part needs to be rewritten.

It has been edited.
Language editing is required in many places, attaching one example-"The results of the present systematic review and meta-analysis demonstrated that the prevalence of overweight and obesity among military personnel is sizeable" can be replaced by better sentence.

The manuscript has been edited by English-speaking native editor. We hope it now matches the journal standard.

It may be useful to consider selective prevention programs that address both stressful environment and overweight/obesity together. This study has not studied about stressful events, it's better to avoid providing conclusion which is not studied.

Thanks, it has been edited. Now it reads as follow; “It may be useful to consider selective prevention programs that address overweight and obesity based on type of military force. “

Mention the "registration number" in the methods section if the study is registered in any database

We don’t have a registration number.

Takawira Chrispen Marufu (Reviewer 4):

Abstract
Clearly outlined
Thank you for your positive remarks.

Background page 3
Line 17 - consider sentence rephrasing to '...are considered major...'

Thanks, it has been done. Now it reads as follow; “Global data indicate that overweight and obesity are one of the major public health concerns in all of the population age groups.” The appropriate reference provided.
line 44 spelling error
Thanks, it has been corrected.

page 4
line 4 consider changing recruiting to recruitment
Thanks, it has been corrected.

page 6 Data extraction and methodology quality assessment
Consider putting initials of the reviewers who were involved in data extraction and the third reviewer who negotiated where disagreements arose.
Thanks, it has been added.

page 8 line 27 check
Thanks, it has been corrected.

page 9 line 22 consider rephrasing the sentence.
Thanks, it has been edited.

line 27 spelling check
Thanks, it has been corrected.

Line 32 and 34 check sentence construction
Thanks, it has been edited.

page 10 line 9 41% and 13%
Thanks, it has been corrected.

page 11 line 9 spelling check
Thanks, it has been corrected.

page 11 line 26 - what other related literature - please be specific.
It’s a general statement. As you can see below, in the following sentences each of this related literature is explained.

“According to the related literature, there may be number of possible explanations for the high observed prevalence of overweight and obesity among military personnel; first, military personnel are at higher risk of stressful conditions, exposure to death or harmful agents and ongoing sleep deprivation. Current evidence shows that occupation-related factors could have a high impact on the prevalence of overweight and obesity [13-16]. Several researches reported that overweight and obesity can be associated with work environment and higher work related-stress [13-15, 17], including poor eating habits, intake higher energy, saturated fat, and sugar [49, 60]. Stressful environment may result in increasing appetite through cortisol reactivity [51, 52]. However, some people may lose weight when affected by stress [53]. In addition, it is well known that sleep disorder is associated with body weight and adiposity [54, 55].”

References need attention.

Thanks, it has been checked.

Likawunt Samuel Asfaw, MPH (Reviewer 5):

General

Why obesity in military than general public? This is the major concern.

There is several systematic review and primary studies that focused on overweight and obesity in general and specific population [1-5]. However, there is a little evidence about these health problems in sub-population like military personnel. From the epidemiology prospective, knowing about the high-risk sub-population help us to define more effective intervention programs.

The topic is very important, please addressee the concept in the topic throughout the manuscript, that means ( Introduce about obesity in military, in discussion section please be specific to your study participants not to the general public) unless it is a good work.

Thanks, we do our best to addressee the concept throughout the manuscript.

References:


