Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between the food and physical activity environment, obesity, and cardiovascular health across Maine counties

Version: 2 Date: 10 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Catherine Paquet

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscripts and responses mostly addressed the concerns raised. However, I believe that the clustered nature of the data and the lack of appropriate modelling (multi-level model or GEE) for these types of data need to be addressed in the manuscript. Multi-level and GEE models are usually standard for neighbourhood studies and it should be discussed why the authors opted not to use these approaches. The authors response state that "multilevel modelling can introduce assumptions that may not be true and can bring unanticipated confounding to the models, so we chose not to use this approach in our analyses" This decision needs to be made explicit in the manuscript, with justification supported by appropriate references, and discussion of the implications of not accounting for the clustering.

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

No

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

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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