Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability of dietary patterns assessed with a food-frequency questionnaire

Version: 1 Date: 30 May 2015

Reviewer: Katherine Silva-Jaramillo

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

General Observations

1. The manuscript entitled "Reliability of dietary pattern assessed with a food-frequency questionnaire" contributes to the Nutrition Evaluation Topic. Needs more clarification about the reliability analysis, it is clear that factor analysis was used to identify food patterns in both populations but it is missing the reliability test or the correlation coefficients used to assess the reliability. Maybe the title does not convey with what has been found.

2. The setting in which study is developed needs more clarification. It is clear that the location is Newfoundland but for foreign lectors it is important to mention that this city is in Canada. Also, I suggest adding the setting in the title it is important to mention the location where the reliability analysis was assessed.

Abstract

3. Methods: Statistical analysis is not described in the Abstract section. The methodology section in the Abstract describes more the population rather than the methodology used to assess the question posed by the authors.

4. Conclusion: How did the authors conclude that the reproducibility of dietary pattern analysis used in NL population is reasonable without a correlation coefficient?. Please clarify.

Introduction

5. Lines 45-46: You do not asses the reliability of a food pattern you assess the reliability of an instrument that identifies food patterns.

6. Lines 46-49 describe the objectives of the study and Lines 56-58 describes the purpose of the study. Please correct.

7. Line 56: The CCS was from 2001 to 2005. Please correct

Methods

8. The study participants are not well describe and is confusing. If possible, add a figure with the study participants, the year and the final sample of both studies used in the secondary analysis.
9. Lines 62-69: Even though the detail description of selecting the CCS can be found elsewhere, please include at least the characteristics taken into account for the FFQVP population. Was level of education taken into account in the CCS? Speaking and reading skills? Residence in NL?, etc.

10. The methodology to assess the dietary pattern analysis is well described but how is the study going to assess the reliability is not clear. Please clarify.

Results

10. If possible, I suggest adding a table with the socio-demographic characteristics. Even though in lines 146-151 some characteristics are described still there is no enough information about other socio-demographic information available as describe in lines 114-116 (marital status, level of education, etc).

11. The results describe the methodology to assess the dietary patterns but again no reliability analysis is described.

Discussion and conclusion

12. It is not clear how the authors discuss and conclude about the reliability of the food pattern analysis in the NL population without a reliability analysis. Please clarify.

References

13. Please check the references according the journal guidelines.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'