Reviewer's report

Title: Healthy Eating Index versus Alternate Healthy Eating Index in relation to Diabetes status and health markers in US adults

Version: 1 Date: 17 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Sandra Gomez-Perez

Reviewer's report:

Overview: In this study, the authors use NHANES data to assess if AHE-2010 has a stronger association with diabetes status (no diabetes, pre-diabetes, diabetes) while controlling for potential confounders (health markers, socioeconomic factors). This is an interesting topic and given the importance of diet quality and its strong association with disease risk it would be useful to know whether these indexes (AHEI-2010 and HEI-2010) are useful in identifying poor diet quality in adults with and without diabetes. The major strength of the article is the detailed description of methodology and use of data from a large nationally representative sample. However, a major limitation is that tables were missing in the pdf of the manuscript, therefore it was difficult to fully evaluate the results section and subsequent discussion section, and thus making it impossible to fully evaluate the quality of this manuscript.

1. Authors might want to consider using people first language. "Adults with diabetes, adults with pre-diabetes …"

2. Lines 85-87, please clarify this sentence in association with previous sentence. Why is it useful to explore both AHEI-2010 and HEI-2010, given that the HEI-2015 exploring diet quality in relation to disease have been tailored to model AHEI?

3. Lines 91-93, please clarify this sentence - explain "reflects a critique…".

4. Lines 123-135, consider rewriting this section converting "The study will…” to "The authors or researchers will…"

5. Please provide tables - unable to fully compare results as written to tables.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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