Reviewer’s report

Title: The share of ultra-processed foods and the overall nutritional quality of diets in the US: evidence from a nationally representative cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Connie Weaver

Reviewer's report:

The approach of evaluating diet quality across quintiles of consumption of ultra-processed foods is novel and contributes to the body of evidence. Better explanations are needed to understand what was done.

Line 34 Describe 'ready meals'. Couldn't these be largely comprised of minimally processed foods?

Line 59-60 what does 'worked around' mean? Perhaps rewording to explain diet quality may be better assessed by evaluating diet patterns rather than individual nutrients.

Line 92 I don't understand how "processed culinary ingredients" is handled. The items listed here do not align well with Table 1. Are these added like sugar to coffee? How would it an ingredient not be counted twice for energy contribution? If an ingredient, does it automatically make any recipe ultra-processed?

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