Author’s response to reviews

Title: The sustainability of public health interventions in schools: a systematic review

Authors:

Lauren Herlitz (lauren.herlitz@lshtm.ac.uk)
Helen MacIntyre (helen.macintyre.14@ucl.ac.uk)
Tom Osborn (tgosborn87@gmail.com)
Chris Bonell (chris.bonell@lshtm.ac.uk)

Version: 3 Date: 15 Nov 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Mr Paul Wilson
Professor Michel Wensing
Editors-in-Chief
Implementation Science

15 November 2019

Dear Mr Wilson and Professor Wensing

Thank you for considering our manuscript “The sustainability of public health interventions in schools: a systematic review,” (IMPS-D-19-00331).

We would like to thank the reviewer for taking the time to review the manuscript a second time and raising an important point.

• 1. "the authors indicated that they excluded studies of services delivered by clinical providers. ...the authors do not provide justification for this choice and do not discuss its implications in the limitations section."
• 2. "this decision may have resulted in primarily universal programs being identified (i.e., only 3 of the 24 studies included targeted interventions), given that universal programs are more likely to be delivered by educators rather than healthcare providers."
• 3. "aside from Table 1, no information about this finding appears in the results or discussion. This is important because some of the findings may have been influenced by this restricted range."
• 4. "Further discussion of the justification for and implications of this inclusion criterion is warranted."

We provide justification for this exclusion criteria on pg. 5 and we agree this choice may have impacted on our findings. We have added a phrase of clarification to the “Summary of key findings” in the discussion on p.19 and discuss this the “Strengths and limitations” and “Implications” sections on p.21 and p.22.
We have noted this point under “Strengths and limitations” on p.21.

With these additions, the word count is now 6292. We also made minor corrections to ensure that "health care" was consistently two words not one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Herlitz
lauren.herlitz@lshtm.ac.uk
Public Health, Environments and Society
Faculty of Public Health and Policy
15-17 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SH