Reviewer's report

Title: The correlation between supermarket size and national obesity prevalence.

Version: 2 Date: 20 September 2014

Reviewer: Ashan A Pathirana

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Sampling method not clearly mentioned.

2. Sample size and its representativeness - When selecting a Nationally representative sample to estimate the Super Market size of a particular country it should have an adequate number proportionate to the number of supermarkets in the country or a good justification as to why the small sample size is in fact representative of the entire population of supermarkets in the country.

3. The representativeness is essential for any ecological study which are based on population parameters. The national obesity prevalence is a national figure but the chosen sample for supermarket size is very unlikely to have a representation of national figures, given the variation in the sample size that does not align with the population of the country or the number of supermarkets. (Eg. n=8 England with a population of 64 million, n=10 in New Zealand with a population of 4.5 million, n=35 Australia with a population of 23.6 million and n=32 USA for a population of 318 million)

4. Since this is a very interesting study and has the opportunity to develop valuable proxy indicators to the obesogenic food environments, I suggest that the study should focus on specific geographical areas (feasible to cover and made representative) and do a representative sampling of supermarkets and compare them with local obesity prevalence rates.

Further review of the study can be done following the submission of clarifications on this regard.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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