Reviewer’s report

Title: The negative impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on children's health: An update of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 19 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Jean Welsh

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Reviewer Comments

Title: The negative impact of sugar-sweetened beverages on children's health: An update of the literature

General: The purpose of this manuscript, to provide an overview of the status of the current evidence of an association between the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and negative health outcomes among children, is a valuable one but I have some questions and some concerns. As written, the manuscript appears to focus on highlighting the evidence of an association rather than objectively evaluating the totality of it. In addition, it is unclear why/how the specific SSB-associated health outcomes were selected. What about other outcomes that have also been associated with SSB consumption, eg. non-alcoholic fatty liver disease? dyslipidemia?

1. Abstract. Background. I don't believe that the Dietary Guidelines have a "recommended amount set" for sugar-sweetened beverage intake.

2. It is unclear how the determination was made that the "..strongest support" was for "overweight/obesity". How as strongest assessed? Number of studies? Strength of associations? Fewer conflicting studies?

2. Page 3. Background. The only background information presented as an introduction relates to SSBs and obesity. No information to justify the importance of the other outcomes, or of examining associations with caffeine, is presented.

3. Methods. Why was a publication date of Jan 2007 chosen as the cut-off for study inclusion?

4. Methods. What is the significance of including OECD countries only?

5. Results. The background information provided as the first paragraph in the Results section appears out of place.

6. More of a discussion of the limitations of the existing evidence would be helpful. How consistent were the methods used, eg. the definition of SSBs, and the way in which insulin resistance was assessed? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence for each the outcomes?
7. What are the limitations of this review?

8. Conclusion. The conclusion should focus more on the conclusion that can be drawn from the review itself. While it may be true that more research is needed about substitution and taste preference, that is not a determination that can be made from this review. What are the important limitations/gaps of the current evidence in regards to the link between consumption and the specified health outcomes.

Minor

1. It would be helpful if the numbers for references were presented in numerical order.

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