Reviewer’s report

Title: Television exposure and overweight/obesity among women in Ghana

Version: 0 Date: 25 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Jewel Gausman

Reviewer's report:

Page 3:

Line 10: Could any additional information be added to this paragraph on overweight and obesity in Ghana? For example, are there any population subgroups that are more affected than others? Rural/urban? Rich/Poor?

Line 15: "are fundamentally a natural consequence of an" could be changed to "related to", as some research indicates a more complex relationship between calorie consumption and exercise than the current text indicates.

Line 18: Please describe some of the associations (magnitude and direction) that are most relevant to this paper. Have any of these studies been conducted in Ghana or West Africa?

Page 4:

Line 2-4: "It is hypothesized that, TV viewing displaces participation in high-intensity discretionary physical activity, reduces resting energy expenditure compared to other activities, and increases sleep deprivation" Please include a citation for this.

Line 19: Perhaps "possible mechanisms" would be a better word instead of "possible links"

I am not quite sure

Page 5:

Line 4: Were the 18 countries included in the study all high income countries?

Line 6: It strengthen the background section to provide more information as to the television watching habits in Ghana. For example, have there been studies that show that television habits in Ghana or West have started to increase? Who typically consumes the most television - youth/adults, rich/poor? Where do people most often watch television? Do most homes have a television?
Page 7:

Line 5: The independent variable described is not a scale, rather it is an index. Please consider the causal relationship. With scales, the goal is to measure an underlying construct that causes the items in the scale to be observed, whereas with an index, the variable is caused by the items that comprise it. In this case, not having a television and frequency of watching television cause one's television watching habits, therefore the measure being used is an index, not a scale. Internal consistency reliability (measured through Cronbach's alpha) is not appropriate for an index.

Also, is the measure of television watching used similar to what has been done in other studies on this topic? Please also define what is meant by high, moderate and low television watching. How many hours per week? Is this measure consistent with the literature?

Line 15: Consider moving some of this background information to the introduction section.

Page 8:

Line 3: Typo with regard to parity. Please also include whether this is a continuous or categorical variable.

Page 11:

Line 12: Discussing the types of exercise that these women traditionally engage in that television watching would replace would strengthen the plausibility of there being a mechanistic relationship.

Line 17-19: Consider moving reference to this study into the background section as it provides important background information and motivation for this research.

Page 12:

Line 21: Consider removing the word "mediator." Mediators are typically thought of as lying between the exposure and the outcome along the causal pathway. In this example, it does not seem like the covariates included in this study and referenced here, such as wealth and education, would be caused by television watching, as would be the condition required for them to act as mediators.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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