Reviewer’s report

Title: Who drinks sugar sweetened beverages and juice? An Australian population study of behaviour, awareness and attitudes

Version: 1 Date: 03 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Miaobing Zheng

Reviewer's report:

This study examined the correlates of sugary drinks consumption including both SSB and fruit juice among a large sample of Australian population. It looked into the three types of the correlates: demographic, risk factors, and attitudes/knowledge. The study replicates the existing findings, but also provides further insights on how attitudes/knowledge affects SSB consumption. The paper is generally well-written, but the presentation of the result tables requires some amendment.

Methods:
Please provide rationale for the definition used to categorise moderate and high consumers.

It will be great to provide more details regarding the collection and categorisation of correlates of SSB consumption for future reference and comparison with other studies. For example, I suppose body mass index was calculated by reported height and weight? if not, please clarify. Also, what is your definition of fast food consumption?

Any potential to compare participants and non-participants? If not, this should be noted as a limitation.

Results:
The presentation of table 1 looks confusing and hard to interpret. I can see some percentages are out of the total population, but some are not. Table 1 presents the percentage of respondent in each SSB consumption category by study demographics. Maybe change the table 1 heading to reflect this. Please also explain the arrows in table 1, and provide what trend test was used as a footnote so the table can standalone. Also, add moderate and frequent in the table heading besides 1 to 6 times and 7+times respectively, to be consistent with description of your results.

I strongly advise to amend the result table format for easy interpretation.

In result section, you should outline what the results showed, rather than providing interpretation. For example, for page 9 line 12-17, is this really what your result table showed?

Discussion
No discussion was made for BMI, can you please provide some discussion on the null finding for BMI?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
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If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

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