

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Diet, physical activity, and adiposity in children in poor and rich neighborhoods: a cross-sectional comparison

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## Responses to reviewers:

We have responded to the concerns raised in this version of the manuscript. The reviewers' comments are in italics and our responses in normal text. In the manuscript we have highlighted the changes in yellow.

*Although some of the problems raised by the reviewer have been appropriately revised, some major flaws are still remained in your manuscript. We are confused by new data and discussion added by your revision. We ask you to revise your manuscript again with considering about following points.*

*1. Abstract. Do you intend to conclude this study as follows? The potential determinants within a city may be different depending on neighborhood characteristics. Living in low-income area was not a simple determinant of obesity in this study (you suggest at Background that children in low income area become more overweight). The determinants of obesity might be more complex than ever thought. Please indicate your conclusion more clearly.*

We have spelt out the conclusions of the study more clearly in the abstract and text of the manuscript. Pages 3 and 12.

*Furthermore, you should mention that both children in area A and B were obese in the last sentence of Results (P3, line 1-3) although only the comparison of z-score is written.*

We have mentioned in the abstract and results that children at both schools were overweight. Pages 3 and 9.

*2. P9, line 6-9 and Table 1. While BMI Z-score is School A < School B, the prevalence of obesity is A > B. The readers would be confused by these descriptions. Your explanation p10, the last line - P11, line 5 is insufficient. Although the additional data was requested by the reviewer, I suggest you can remove one of them, probably the prevalence of obesity.*

We have removed the results on obesity prevalence from the manuscript.

*3. P9, line 16-17 and Table 1. Is it true that School A parents were heavier than School B parents? BMI is A < B in Table 1.*

The data in Table 1 are corrected. Page 15

*4. P10, line 3-. "Our findings are consistent" may be "Our findings are inconsistent", because the next sentence says that children in low income area are more likely to be overweight. Your results did not support this hypothesis. These flaws are appeared in other parts of this manuscript.*

We have corrected the text to read "inconsistent.." Page 9

*5. P10, line 12. "cost more" should be "cost less".*

It seems paradoxical, but the cost of food is higher in poor versus rich neighborhoods. This is because the source of these items is convenience stores, which charge more than large supermarkets for poor quality food.

*6. P10, line 20-p11, line 5. This paragraph is thought to be unnecessary.*

*7. P11, line 8- p12, line 1. This part of discussion is difficult to understand. Please re-organize it again.*

We have rewritten this text, to make it clearer. Page 10 (last para) to page 11 (first para).

*8. Table 1. The difference of grades between School A and B should be another limitation of this study. Please mention this limitation briefly.*

This is mentioned in the paragraph on limitations. Page 10

*9. As the reviewer pointed out, English language needs to be corrected.*

*This may solve some of the problems like the above mentioned No 7.*

*10. There are many typographic errors in Tables.*

We have corrected the errors and rewritten the passages in the text that were not clear.