

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Gendered dimensions of obesity in childhood and adolescence

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 7 July 2007

**Reviewer:** Carolanne Nelson

### Reviewer's report:

#### General

This is an interesting review with a novel focus on the differences between gender in obesity risk factors and predictors. The paper is well written and is comprehensive in its treatment of the topic.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

On page 3, the last paragraph, the phrase "...and seems to duck the issue." occurs. I would encourage the author to find a more appropriate word than 'duck' as it is too colloquial for a scientific review.

On the top of page 5, first sentence after the title "Measurements and definitions", the author needs to convert "defined as a " to "defined as an".

On the bottom of page 5 is a small typo - the sentence currently reads "the resulting lack of consensus in respect of which cut-off to apply...". I believe the author meant to say "respect to which cut-off to apply..."

Page 8 - the sentence in the middle of the 2nd paragraph - "Obese children are now more obese than they were" . Please be more specific - what is the date comparison the author is referring to, 10 years ago, 50 years ago, etc.

Page 9, 2nd para - the statement "...one study of 11-13 year olds found higher BMIs among both groups..." Higher than who or what? Be specific.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I suggest the author reduce the number of side comments that appear in parentheses. The use of parentheses should be rare, but it appears to be used as a substitute for commas. It is quite distracting as it is being used in many cases to insert additional thoughts and it results in a convoluted sentence.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.