

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Availability and nutritional composition of street food in urban Central Asia: findings from Almaty, Kazakhstan

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Marialaura Bonaccio

Submitted on: 24 Nov 2021

Article DOI: 10.3389/ijph.2022.1604558

EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

No answer given.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

No answer given.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

This work sought to evaluate the availability and nutritional value of street food in urban Central Asia by analyzing nearly 400 street food vending sites. The research question is of interest since street food is widely available especially in low-middle income countries thus representing a major source of food supply for those populations. Moreover, the authors place their research in a context of dietary transition from traditional to more globalized eating patterns possibly associated with an increased risk of non-communicable diseases. I would suggest the authors to include a couple of sentences in the Introduction relating to the growing public health concern on the worldwide rise of ultra-processed food (Monteiro CA et al. Public Health Nutr. 2019;22:936-941; Monteiro CA et al. Public Health Nutr. 2018;21:5-17); this would give a greater connection of this work with timely issues in nutritional epidemiology.

Also, the proposed analyses here look at nutrient content as the only parameter to define diet quality of street food. More recently, food processing was suspected to be as important for health as nutritional values of food (Monteiro CA. Public Health Nutr. 2009 May;12(5):729-31). I believe this aspect should be somehow acknowledged and better discussed in this study.

I also suggest to stress more in the discussion the paucity of healthy food options, such as fruit and vegetables that were unfrequently available.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

yes

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

yes

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

yes

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality



Q 10 Rigor



Q 11 Significance to the field



Q 12 Interest to a general audience



Q 13 Quality of the writing



Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study



REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.