

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:**Food store owners' and managers' perspectives on the food environment: An exploratory mixed-methods study

**Version:2Date:**31 March 2014

**Reviewer:**Angela Odoms-Young

### **Reviewer's report:**

This is a very relevant and timely article highlighting the challenges faced by store owners in supplying healthy food options. Overall the paper is well written and referenced. Detailed comments are listed below.

#### Major Revisions

##### Background

1. Page 1: The literature review seems inconsistent with the focus of the paper. The authors indicate that the purpose of the current study is to expand our understanding of the mechanisms between the food environment and health-related behaviors. However, it seems more appropriate to frame the paper emphasizing the relevance of the study for developing food retail interventions.

2. Page 1, last paragraph: The authors indicated that out of 16 intervention studies identified by Gittelsohn et al, only three included retailer interviews. Please summarize the results of these interviews and cite them.

##### Methods

3. Page 5, last paragraph: How many coders coded the data? Authors should provide more detail about how this process was done. Additionally, how did they resolve disagreements if there was more than one coder?

#### Minor Essential Revisions

##### Methods

4. The authors should indicate that the study was conducted as part of a CBPR project at the start of the methods vs. later in the paper.

5. Should add a citation describing the accuracy of using expanded field notes compared to interview transcripts.

**Level of interest:**An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:**Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.