

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The contribution of psychological distress to socio-economic differences in mortality: a population-based follow-up of 28 years.

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 14 September 2010

**Reviewer:** Laura A Pratt

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

This paper is well-written and quite interesting. I have only a few comments for improvement:

Discretionary revisions:

1. I believe this paper would be strengthened considerably if the authors included all-cause mortality and did all the same analyses using all-cause mortality as a third mortality outcome. If they choose not to add all-cause mortality, then there are a number of places (see major compulsory revisions below) that need to be re-worded.

Major compulsory revisions

1. The title, the last sentence of the background section of the abstract, the last sentence in the discussion section of the paper, and the second sentence of the conclusions section all go beyond the data. Either the authors need to include all-cause mortality in their analyses, as suggested above, or in all these sentences the word "mortality" needs to be modified. It needs to say either cause-specific mortality or unnatural causes of death or something similar.

2. The discussion section should include some discussion of why psychological factors may explain some part of the socio-economic differentials in unnatural mortality but not in CHD mortality.

3. The unemployed vs. employed measure for socio-economic differences in employment is a limitation (most studies have information on class of employment) and should be mentioned in the limitation section.

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.