Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of indicators of financial situation in the context of an epidemiological study

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Reviewer: Leena Koivusilta

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Comments on the manuscript “Comparison of indicators of financial situation in the context of an epidemiological study”

The article enters the important issue of the difficulties in developing indicators of socio-economic status relevant for epidemiologic health research. Various proxy indicators for individual financial situation can naturally be applied for adult populations, but are particularly important when applied to younger age groups or families. Information on the households’ economic situation is difficult to report for adults, but even more so for children or adolescents. Thus, the research has relevance for various branches of epidemiologic research.

The article is very well written, clear and logical. The indicators used as well as the rationale for their use have been described in sufficient detail. Also, the analysis and conclusions have been done adequately. To my opinion, the article is suitable for publication in BMC Medical Research Methodology. However, I suggest two major compulsory revision to be done before the publication. My concerns are as follow.

Major compulsory revisions

1) The description of the study population needs to be specified. Some more verbal explanation or a flow chart could be used to describe, who are the 676 individuals who belong to the final set of statistically analysed people. This unclarity leads to the next problem.

2) On page 6, it is told that 60 % of respondents did not declare their family income. This deficiency and the possible bias caused by it needs to be discussed in the discussion chapter. Who might be the people (mainly men) for whom this information has not been available, and how could their absence been influenced the conclusions made from the results?

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.