Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Childhood Disability and the Characteristics and Circumstances of Disabled Children in the UK: Secondary Analysis of the Family Resources Survey

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Reviewer: Michael E. Msall

Reviewer's report:

Would change title to person first language by using children with disability rather than disabled children.

On page 7, is their any available data that could estimate the number of children not residing in private households. Is there any available information to know if one of the reasons for non response is low literacy or concern that the family does not understand the questions because of limited educational achievement.

On page 12 please reword the 10th line of text as DDA-defined disability than for younger children, girls or those from black and minority ethnic groups."

In line 13 add "were 50% greater in bivariate analysis."

In tables 1 and table 2 is it possible to put the confidence intervals for the prevalence estimates.

On page 16 in the last paragraph before the conclusion. Is it possible to know if among children with disability in a specific domain if other children and adults who resided in the household and met the criteria for disability had similar specific areas of limitation?. Specifically do children with mobility limitations live with a sibling with mobility limitations and/or parents with mobility limitations or was it that a child with mobility limitations might have a sibling with sensory limitations and an adult requiring ongoing medication for kidney failure? There may be some mendelian disorders in these families but most of the pathways to disability in communication, learning, and coordination are multifactorial and unknown and rarely autosomal dominant. Please comment.

Since the youngest children have the lowest prevalence of disability, can this mean that UK preventive and early childhood interventions for health, developmental, and behavioral competencies are not comprehensive enough to fully meet the needs of vulnerable families because of minority status or economic disadvantage. Please comment.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

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 do not have any competing interests. Michael Msall