Reviewer's report

Title: Excess Risk of Chronic Physical Conditions Associated with Depression and Anxiety

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Reviewer: Kristin Schneider

Reviewer's report:

The decision to exclude underweight participants due to the small sample size is a much more sound argument than excluding them because they may be “sicker” than normal weight participants. As mentioned in the previous reviews, obese adults are also more likely to suffer from chronic health conditions compared to their normal weight counterparts (which the authors also found with their data as described in the manuscript “obesity was associated with higher risk for all chronic physical conditions except for osteoporosis”). However, obese individuals are not excluded from the analysis. I imagine if the authors looked at the percent of obese participants who reported fair/poor self-perceived physical health, that this percentage would also be higher than the 7.7% reported for normal weight participants. Delete any reference to excluding underweight participants due to their self-reported health; use the rationale of small sample size prohibiting comparisons as your justification for omitting this subset of participants.

In my previous review, I inquired about why the authors discussed the relationship between chronic health conditions and lifestyle factors in the results and discussion when these analyses were not hypothesized or described as aims. I did not question why these variables were controlled for in the depression and anxiety analyses. The only aim of the study is to “examine excess risk of a diverse set of chronic physical conditions associated with depression and/or anxiety in a non-elderly adult population within a multivariate framework that controlled for demographic and modifiable lifestyle risk factors.” It is unclear why the association between lifestyle factors and chronic health conditions is examined for the results and commented on in the discussion. Are these findings intended to help the reader understand the depression and anxiety results? These sections should either be deleted from the manuscript or justified.

Despite their assurances that the authors removed references to “psychiatric disorders,” there are still some instances in the manuscript (e.g., page15, “with or without psychiatric disorders”).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests