Reviewer’s report

Title: Divorce, divorce rates, and professional care seeking for mental health problems in Europe: a cross-sectional population based study

Version: 4 Date: 17 December 2009

Reviewer: Terrance J Wade

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

The authors cannot construct an interaction of a multiple categorical variable (i.e., marital status) and only pick and choose one of the categories. They must construct the interaction for ALL categories. If they still want to go this route, then they must put all other categories (married, cohabitating, widow, other) into the reference category and create a dichotomous variable. It doesn’t matter conceptually that they want to --as they indicate, “stick to this strategy…because interactions should only be modeled apriori”—mathematically, they need to include ALL categories in the interaction model.

Discretionary revisions

One reference they missed that hits exactly what they are looking at for single mothers:

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.