Reviewer's report

Title: Family social environment in childhood and self-rated health in young adulthood

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2011

Reviewer: cyrille delpierre

Reviewer's report:

All my comments have been in general well discussed by the authors in the text.

Minor Essential Revisions
My only concern is about the conclusion of the paper: as the direct effect of parental separation is not significant after taking into account the quality of family functioning, I would add in the first paragraph on the discussion that “the results show the separation/divorce itself is not deleterious for self-rated health, but is related to self-rated health only through family violence and parental relationships”. In my opinion, this is the main result of this study, and its main interest. Even if the direct effect of parental separation on self-rated health is not significant, it may be interesting to discuss a little bit why reporting parental separation before 18 could be associated with better self perceived health after taking into account family functioning.

Check the orthography for the added text
page 11, first line : “wheres direst”
page 11, second paragraph: “between family breskup”

Discretionary Revisions

Why is all the information on the SIRS cohort not included in the text?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'