Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 November 2011

Reviewer: Rosalind Jo Wright

Reviewer’s report:

While the paper has merit and is important given the examination of these associations in a unique population the authors have not acknowledged the major limitation raised in the prior review. The main weakness of the analysis is the retrospective reporting of family variables (separation before age 18, family dysfunction and violence) do not attempt to determine the timing of each of these (which came first in the child's life) which limits ones ability to interpret the path/mediation analyses done using structural equation models. This needs to be explicitly acknowledged in the limitations section of the discussion.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.