Author's response to reviews

Title: Mortality and causes of death among violent offenders and victims - a Swedish population based longitudinal study

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Version: 4 Date: 7 December 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Editor’s Comments

The authors would like to thank the Reviewers and the Associate Editor for a careful review of our manuscript and providing us with their comments and suggestions to improve the quality of the manuscript.

The following response have been prepared to address the Associate Editor’s comments in a point-by-point fashion, with our responses below (in **bold** type). The page (P) numbers refer to our re-revised manuscript submitted 7 Dec. 2011.

1. The authors must clarify this, as I don’t know what this means (page 5):
The measures were assessed on a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 = 7%, 2 = 24%, 3 = 38%, 4 = 24%, and 5 = 7%.

**Response 1:** We have clarified the text. See pages 5. Measures-section, 4 lines from the top. “Each participant was seen by a trained military psychologist for a structured interview and assessed on a series of variables based on questionnaire and interview data. The measures were assessed on a 1-5 point Likert scale (5 being the highest), yielding a distribution corresponding to 1=7, 2=24, 3=38, 4=25 and 5= 7 per cent. The ratings of the psychologists were regularly checked for inter-rater reliability in order to check good quality [26].”

2. We also need you to make the following Editorial changes.

**Response 2:** We have made the Editorial changes according to the BMC Public Health’s instructions for authors.