Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic conditions of elderly people in Kosovo: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2012

Reviewer: Evelina Pappa

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Background
1. The authors need to concentrate on how their study is adding to knowledge in this area. Furthermore, a more detailed description of the scope of the study is needed.

Methods
2. Put the first sentence in the Study Population Section.
3. The measurement of "self-perceived poverty" is fundamental, but it was not adequately defined and explained. Define the "self-perceived poverty". You mentioned a scale ranging from 1 (extremely poor) to 5 (poor). Based on what criteria was this scale constructed and how was someone self-assessed as poor or extremely poor? Describe in detail the criteria (for example, if the income level is one of them, indicate the income categories).
4. In statistical analysis section, it is reported that binary logistic regression was used to assess the association of self-perceived poverty (not poor vs poor) with socio-economic characteristics. But as you mentioned before, self-perceived poverty was measured using a scale ranging from extremely poor to poor. How can a value of the dependent variable be "not poor" when it has not been previously measured? There is an inconsistency. Please explain.

Results
5. Table 1 contains only socio-demographic and not economic characteristics. Rewrite the first sentence in the 1st line. Furthermore, remove the columns with CIs because they refer to percentages rather than mean values. CIs of the percentage are meaningless. Also add two columns (N and %) concerning the total sample.
6. Table 2 presents the socio-economic characteristics of the sample. The variable "family finance at the end of the month" should be defined in the methods section. What do the values "not enough" and "enough" correspond to? How much money?
7. In Table 3 the analysis is age-adjusted. What is the purpose in an elderly population 65+ years old? I do not think that the age --adjustment is appropriate
since the sample concerns only elderly population rather a general population where the age range would be large. A chi-square analysis studying whether the self-perceived poverty differed across socio-demographic characteristics is more appropriate.

8. Rewrite Results and Discussion sections.

**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