Author’s response to reviews

Title: Socio-economic differences in self-reported insomnia and stress in Finland from 1979 to 2002: a population-based repeated cross-sectional survey.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Author's response to the reviewer, 30th July 2012

Reviewer's report
Title: Socio-economic differences in self-reported insomnia and stress in Finland from 1979 to 2002: a population-based repeated cross-sectional survey.
Version: 5 Date: 27 June 2012
Reviewer: Jane Ferrie

Reviewer's report:
The authors of this paper have now made an excellent job of responding to my comments. I was pleased to see that using a broader definition of stress has strengthened their analyses and that their associations were not completely attenuated by adjustment for depression. In my opinion they still place too much importance on the results of significance tests rather than patterns of effect size. I suggest that for future reference they consult 'Sifting the evidence-what's wrong with significance tests?' Sterne JA, Davey Smith G. BMJ. 2001 Jan27;322(7280):226-31.

Author's response: We are thankful for these comments, and will look into reviewer's suggestion in the future!

Reviewer comment: Could the authors please note that the findings for income in the SES adjusted analyses in Tables 2 and 3 are exactly the same. I think this might be a transcription error.

Author’s response: This is an accurate remark. We have corrected Table 3 as the data for those above-mentioned income-SES findings were a transcription error. Therefore we have also made some corrections in the text, page12, first paragraph:

Old version: However, the educational level differences were no longer statistically significant among women, and furthermore, the association of insomnia with household income level turned u-shaped as the intermediate levels of income had the lowest insomnia among both sexes. Following further adjustment for self-reported depression; intermediate level no longer differed from the highest education among men; and even the lowest level of income had statistically significantly less insomnia compared to the highest income among both men and women.

New version: However, the educational level differences were no longer statistically significant among women. Furthermore, the lowest household income level no longer differed from the highest income level among women, and among men, the association of insomnia with household income level turned u-shaped as the intermediate levels of income had the lowest insomnia. Following further adjustment for self-reported depression; intermediate level of education no longer differed from the highest education among men; and compared to the highest income, respondents on all the other levels of income had less insomnia among both men and women.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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:
This is a review of a revised paper. All my answers to the questions above remain as before. It is very annoying not to be able to submit my review without answering all these again.