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: 1 Date: 16 November 2011

Reviewer: Markus Jokela

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study examining time trends and socioeconomic differences in insomnia and stress in Finland. The introduction reviews appropriate literature and the discussion gives an even interpretation of the results.

1. The prevalence estimates shown in figure 1 should have some indicators of variation, e.g., confidence intervals.

2. Given that insomnia is 10 times more prevalent than unbearable stress, maybe the figures for insomnia and stress should be presented in separate figures with appropriate ranges for the y-axis?

3. The tables are quite exhausting, and the text in the results section repeats the information of the tables in a rather listwise fashion. I think the text in the results section could be made more readable and more streamlined by emphasizing the substance and the most important points of the results rather than going through the tables in detail. This makes it easier for the reader to follow your presentation. Also, please change the expression “respondents reported the highest odds…” because odds were not reported by the participants.

4. Did you use sampling weights?

5. Page 11, second paragraph starting “For employment status, …” should probably be “For insomnia, …”

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests