Author's response to reviews

Title: Main income sources and activities in people with self-reported hearing difficulties; a cross-sectional population-based study in Sweden

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the manuscript "Main income sources and activities in people with self-reported hearing difficulties; a cross-sectional population-based study in Sweden" by Videhult Pierre, Fridberger, Wikman, and Alexanderson, which we submit for consideration of publication in BMC Public Health.

Hearing difficulties are the most common cause of disability globally and the prevalence is growing. The individual and societal consequences are large, since hearing-impaired are at increased risk of distress symptoms, reduced educational and professional performances and of work-related accidents. However, considering the high prevalence of hearing difficulties, the number of studies on these issues is scarce. Our results show that men and women with self-reported hearing difficulties are more likely to be dependent on unemployment benefits, sickness benefits, or disability pension than their normal-hearing likes, also after adjustment for age, socio-economic status, country of birth, and type of residential area. Hearing difficulties were more prevalent among men, but the associations with social benefits were stronger in women. The results warrant studies on the causalities of the associations and on the situation among hearing-impaired women, a neglected area of research.

We think that BMC Public Health is the journal of choice for our study since the focus of the study accords with that of the journal, a public health problem and its social determinants and occupational correlates.

The data has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The authors have no competing interests to declare.

Sincerely,

Pernilla Videhult Pierre, PhD