**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Socioeconomic factors from midlife predict mobility limitation and depressed mood three decades later; Findings from the AGES-Reykjavik Study

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**Reviewer:** Mirja Hirvensalo

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Socioeconomic factors from midlife predict mobility limitation and depressed mood three decades later; Findings from the AGES-Reykjavik Study

This paper examines the effect of midlife socioeconomic factors on mobility limitation and depressed mood in old age. The strengths of this study include a long follow-up period of 5000 men and women, and many socioeconomic factors measured in midlife.

The research questions, which concern individual indicators of midlife socioeconomic status to health in old age, such as car ownership or shortage of food, are interesting. The paper will certainly add to the current evidence and its results may imply new starting points for preventive actions in midlife. However, the justification of the background of the study and the discussion are quite weak.

The methods are described appropriately and the details are sufficient to understand the research process. The manuscript uses relevant statistical methods for longitudinal data. The limitations of the work are stated clearly.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1) More information and earlier research is needed in the background chapter to justify the research questions properly.

2) The discussion and conclusions are not adequately supported by the data. The conclusions are general and not clearly derived from the results. Examples are needed (or earlier research) to get a picture of the mechanisms: how does car ownership or lack of own house individually affect health in old age? Also, examples are needed on how to prevent negative health outcomes already present in midlife when we know that someone does not own a car.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1) In the abstract, the following sentence is confusing: "Recalled shortages of food and car ownership predicted depressed mood." Could it be stated more clearly, e.g. "Shortage of food and lack of a car predicted…"

2) The conclusion sentence… continue to affect mobility and depressed mood… These variables have not been studied in midlife and then the word continue sounds wrong.

3) Results, first chapter, last sentence: Women were more likely then/than men to report not owning a car
4) Table 1, footnote: d Housing features There are no housing features in Table 1.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'