Reviewer's report

Title: Pathways through which health influences early retirement

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Reviewer: Annina Ropponen

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well conducted study that is also well written. The study will provide valuable insight into pathways influencing early retirement, and particularly the one very important that has has been studied a lot in epidemiological methods, health.

I have only few and minor comments to the authors.

1. Abstract/Background: The authors use "situation", i.e. ..."poor health leads to early retirement in some situations, ...". I'm afraid that it is not clear what they mean by situations and that is not really relevant for the study either. Therefore I would suggest some other word, maybe "cases" or "different ways" instead.

2. Abstract/Methods: I miss the description of method used in interpretation of data. Please provide more details how the data was evaluated and processed.

3. Abstract/Results: I would suggest that the authors add the number of individuals/persons to their results as they have provided them in the text.

4. Background, page 4, paragraph 2: It is unnecessary to list the diseases again to give the references, please give the references when the disease is first mentioned.

5. Methods/Design and study population, page 5: This section seems to be very mixed. I would suggest that the authors take another look and organize the section logically. I suggest that they first report cohort and then the sample. Furthermore, I would suggest that they use some published article as reference for non-health related reasons of early retirement if the submitted article is not yet published.

6. Results: A general comment. I would like to see the respective number of persons describing specific issues. For example, on page 11, the sentence beginning "In some persons,..." it would be very useful to read In xx persons. Please check all the potential additions for this.

7. Discussion, page 15: Please begin the discussion with short description of study sample and aims.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.