Author's response to reviews

Title: Does neighbourhood social capital aid in levelling the social gradient in the health and well-being of children and adolescents? A literature review.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Does neighborhood social capital make a difference for leveling the social gradient in the health and well-being of children and adolescents? A literature review.

First of all, we kindly thank the editorial team and the reviewers for the comments on our revised paper. We have tried to answer all feedback.

As most remarks concerned language issues, the manuscript was sent out for language editing. All changes in the manuscript (i.e. changed or replaced paragraphs, minor adjustments) are indicated in red. All deleted text is scratched out in the document.

Below, a point-by-point response to remarks and questions of the reviewers is provided.

Reviewer: Kathryn P Derose

1. In the discussion (bottom of p. 29), it would be helpful when the authors state, “However, the results suggest that certain components of social capital influence the impact of SES on health outcomes in children” that they specific which components.

The components of social capital that were present in the reviewed studies were added in the text.

‘However, the results suggest that components of neighbourhood social capital such as neighbourhood social cohesion and neighbourhood social control influence the impact of SES on health outcomes in children.’

2. The paper should be edited for grammatical errors and awkwardness in wording.

The paper was sent out for language editing, resulting in extensive revisions to the language and grammar used in the paper.

a. Abstract, end of Methods paragraph: “…and a variable agreed as measuring neighbourhood social capital could be included.” [suggest: “… and a variable proposed to measure neighborhood social capital were included.”]
This has been changed to “and a variable—that measured neighbourhood social capital”.
b. Middle of p. 10: “First, the concept ‘social capital’ is looked into….“ [suggest:“...is examined...”]
   This has been changed to “First, the concept of ‘social capital’ is examined”
c. Top part of p. 15: “Its unique contribution is that it aims exploring the role....”
   [suggest: “...it aims to explore the role....”]
   This has been changed to” It aims to explore the role of neighbourhood social capital
   in the relationship between both individual- and neighbourhood-level socio-economic
   factors and health in children and adolescents.”
d. Bottom of p. 17: “(3) enable to analyse the influence....” [suggest: “(3) enable
   the analysis of the influence....”]
   This has been changed accordingly.
e. Top of p. 18: “...mediation is the causal steps approach...” [suggest:
   “...mediation, the causal steps approach...”]
   This has been changed accordingly.
f. Middle of p. 19: “...because the research population were not children....”
   [suggest: “...the research populations were note children....”]
   This has been changed accordingly.
g. Top of p. 30: “...this finding might be contributed to the fact....” [suggest:
   “...might be attributed to the fact...”]
   This has been changed accordingly.
Reviewer: Sigrid M. Mohnen

Reviewer's report:

Abstract: Didn’t you mean (I added "difference in"): it remains unclear what factors precisely explain these differences in findings.

This was changed to “the factors that explain these differences in findings remain unclear”


Social fabric is used by different social scientist (e.g. Kawachi, Sampson) to refer to the links or social connections between people, and is used on both the individual and neighbourhood level. As we refer to a research tradition which also focuses on other social processes, we have used the more general ‘social fabric’ in stead of the more specific term ‘social capital’.

Page 17: delete one "." "."

We are sorry, but we are not sure what was meant with this remark. The quotation marks on this page are used to stress that these terms are the literal search terms used in the search strategy.

Page 27: Summary of results

In case you refer to the socio-economic status of the neighbourhood, please mention the neighbourhood. The term SES stands more commonly only for individual social capital.

We changed the results and discussion section accordingly.

Page 30 “Earlier research also mentioned exposure as a mechanism to explain why social capital had a larger association to the health of patients with young children, compared the adults without young children.”

This is a very specific description of research; however, you have not mentioned a literature reference. It is a bit awkward to suggest citing my own research; however, my co-authors and I have exactly studied this. So, cite Mohnen, Völker, Flap, Subramanian, Groenewegen 2012 You have to be there to enjoy it?

Neighbourhood social capital and health Eur J Public Health, doi: 10.1093/eurpub/cks039, or an other study with comparable content.

Many thanks for this addition. The citation has been added.

Page 33: The “However” in “However, the findings also illustrate that the beneficial impact…” is not necessary.

“However” was deleted from the text.