Reviewer’s report

Title: Physical and mental health issues for adolescents transitioning to university life

Version: 2 Date: 27 March 2013

Reviewer: Katie Egan

Reviewer’s report:

It was a pleasure to review this well written and conducted study.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
You list several examples of health problems that have been defined in college students on page 4. How does this show a lack of research in the area studied, as mentioned several times in the introduction. I do agree that there are is a lack of research in certain areas of studying college and adolescent health, but please explain how what you are doing is different than what has been done in the past (for example, by ACHA).

In the methods (sample) section, what is the demographic profile of the college studied (large public school, small liberal arts college, metropolitan university, etc).

In your results (participant profile) section, please comment on whether the survey response population is representative of the university as a whole. This is especially important to note with a lower response rate to determine if results may be biased, and if they are, you should note this in the limitations section as well.

On page 12, table 3 is listed in two locations. Please specify where it should be inserted.

Discretionary Revisions:
The opening paragraph to this paper could be eliminated as it does not present relevant information for the paper. This study does not seek to define a new age group, so this information should not be the opening paragraph if it is included in the introduction at all.

In paragraph 2 on page 1, the term "mainstream public health research" is used. Is the definer of “mainstream” needed, or what is the difference between mainstream and non-mainstream public health research.

On page 13, it would be helpful for readers to know what services are offered to students at the studied university. For example, are services provided for free or
for cost, what types of services are available (counseling, GP, sports medicine, emergency/acute care, etc).

In paragraph 1 of page 13, you have contradictory sentences which state that many students fine services good or useful, but the majority also are overwhelmingly dissatisfied. You might consider using less intense language or clarifying these contrasts.

I would suggest changing the heading of Table 1 to Prevalence of Self-Reported Health Conditions.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.