Reviewer's report

Title: Levels and distribution of self-rated health in the Kazakh population. Results from the Kazakhstan Household Health Survey 2012.

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2014

Reviewer: Ilkka H Makinen

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The article is generally well-written and structured, but in the following points I would recommend the authors to consider changes and/or completions:

1. More attention should be paid to the spectacularly low proportion of population reporting "poor health" (1-2 on a 5-point scale): on p.6 it is reported that only 5.3% did this.
   Seeing that the figure is lower than, e.g., the Swiss one, I would like to see this taken up in a critical discussion.

2. On p.8, it is stated that the Kazakh economy is the largest in Central Asia, but the figure given to support that is about the GDP per capita, which is not a measure of the size of an economy.

3. On p.10, 2nd para., "unliked" should read "unlinked" I guess.

4. Given the large number of cases, it should be possible to separate widows and divorcees from the number of "unmarried", since their health might be very different from that of young singles.

5. In Table 2, significances should be marked by, e.g., asterisks. Moreover, I would rather like to see models being built up by a few variables being introduced at a time.

6. I am not sure what effects the mutual controls of three economic variables has for the model as a whole. If the car ownership is the strongest predictor of health, why not use just that instead of cluttering the model with variables of less importance?