Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with self-rated health among North Korean defectors living in South Korea

Version: 3 Date: 28 August 2014

Reviewer: Gary Williams

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. For statistical consistency in the statistical analysis section please state the alpha level.
2. Results Paragraph 1 sentence 3 refers to significantly higher, please include the p-value or test statistic to support this statement within the sentence.
3. Discussion final paragraph refers to random sampling and cross sectional approach. Consider including study design and sampling technique in methodology as well to strengthen the article.

Discretionary Revisions
4. Paragraph 2 first sentence under Background "Post-arrival health assessment has revealed that many North Korean defectors suffer from various physical and mental illnesses, and diseases remaining dormant because of stress were more likely to emerge after their arrival in South Korea [4]." Remove the word "and".
5. Background paragraph 4 sentence 2 "A limited number of studies have investigated the physical health of refugees, and they were restricted in scope because they only used a univariable analysis [4] or lacked follow-up health assessments after initial data was obtained upon their arrival thereby precluding any assumptions regarding their health conditions during the assimilation process [22, 23]." Consider changing "and they were" to "these studies were".
6. Background paragraph 4 sentence 2 long sentence, consider revising into two sentences.
7. Results Paragraph 1 sentence 2 consider changing the word "Average" to "mean" to maintain statistical correctness.
8. Results Paragraph 1 refers to a number of participant characteristic results as being higher or lower etc. Consider stating in text if they were significant or not.
Consider only including in text those that are significant and allow the table to present the rest.

9. Results paragraph 2 sentence 1 consider stating p value after each characteristic that is stated as being significant.

10. If you are able to calculate the power of this study consider including it in the analysis section. This can add substantial weight to the study results.

11. Consider the use of the term "mean" as a replacement for "average" throughout the article.

12. Discussion paragraph 2 sentence 2 consider removing the word "also" as it conflicts with the health direction of sentence 1.

13. Discussion paragraph 2 last sentence consider changing "chance" to "opportunity"

14. Discussion paragraph 4 sentence beginning "Further research is necessary" consider changing "to find out" to "to identify"

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.