Reviewer's report

Title: Duration of unemployment and depression: a cross-sectional survey in Lithuania

Version: 1 Date: 3 April 2006

Reviewer: Heimo Viinamaki

Reviewer's report:

General
This is quite well written paper. The topic is important especially for the researchers in Lithuania.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
In the background section it should be included one recent study from Finland in which was found that current unemployment was associated with major depressive episode in the general population. The study was published in Nordic Journal of Psychiatry 2005;59:486-491. It would be better to say that BDI-score 0-9 reflects normal mood. The cut-off points used with BDI should be analyzed more. A recent study published in Nordic Journal of Psychiatry 2004;58:49-53 showed that cut-off point 14/15 indicated the presence of major depressive episode regardless of the phase of the major depressive disorder. Thus, the cut-off point used in this study to indicate depression may be too low. The analysis with this higher cut-off point should be added in table 3. The logistic regression analysis should be done also with this higher cut-off point.
I think that in the discussion the main results should be given first. Discussion is too long and there is a lot of text which is not based on results.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.