Author's response to reviews

Title: Utilization of health services in relation to mental health problems in adolescents: A population based survey

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Cover letter:

Dear Annabel Phillips, on behalf of the BioMed Central Editorial Team

We thank you for your careful handling of our manuscript and conditional accept of our manuscript "Utilization of health services in relation to mental health problems in adolescents: A population based survey". Again, we have appreciated the suggestions by reviewer 2, who have also invested considerable effort into language improvement as well as reviewing the scientific quality of our work. During our revision of Figure 1, we realized that the figure contained a minor error. The figure was originally generated from a data set containing some data from two additional rural counties which we were not given the permission to use (the total n was slightly above 13 000 instead of 11 154 as in our analyses). By mistake, these additional data were included in the figure submitted. When corrected, the shape or the level of the curve did not change when this was corrected, but the CIs became slightly larger. We reviewed all our other analyses in order to ensure that this mistake had not influenced our results. We can confirm that this error was made only when the figure was generated, and has not been made throughout our analyses. We apologize for this error, but consider it to have little actual significance for interpreting the results.

We have complied with the requests from the Editorial board and the reviews in the following manner:

Formatting of the manuscript:
Author list - The list of authors in the manuscript and in the submission system are now identical and in the same order.
Affiliations - are written as suggested
Corresponding author - is indexed with an *, and the email address is given.
Section headings- colons are removed.
Competing interests - corrected according to suggestions.
Authors' contributions - corrected according to suggestions.
Figure legends - The title has been removed from the image file.
Figure legends - Spelling mistake is corrected
Figure - Figure 1 is cropped according to the recommendation.

Comment by reviewer 1:
We have now added to limitations that the HSCL-10 only addresses symptoms within the last week. The sentence: "Symptoms of anxiety and depression are measured with a rather short self-report questionnaire, which implies imperfect sensitivity and specificity to these conditions compared with diagnostic interviews." is now changed into: "Symptoms of anxiety and depression are measured with a rather short self-report questionnaire, asking for the presence of symptoms during the last week only. This implies imperfect sensitivity and specificity to these conditions compared with diagnostic interviews."

Comments by reviewer 2:
Table 1 is now revised as suggested by reviewer 2. The heading of column 1 is changed, and the first sentence of the footnote is deleted. We also comply with the reviewer's suggestion and have deleted column 2.

All the minor essential revisions suggested by reviewer 2 have been complied.
One sentence have been added to clarify a point noted by the reviewer on p. 10 (the underscored sentence
is added). "The content of the contact with health care providers is not specified, further contributing to overestimation of the association between mental health problems and help-seeking. The likely effect of these limitations is however unclear."

Table 2: In accordance with the reviewer’s suggestion we have added a footnote indicating level of significance.

Again we apologize for the error made when Figure 1 was generated, and ensure that this has not influenced on any results or interpretations of them.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf of the authors,
Henrik Daae Zachrisson