Reviewer's report

Title: Use of mental health services among disaster survivors: predisposing factors

Version: 2 Date: 22 March 2007

Reviewer: adrian boyle

Reviewer's report:

General

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

In the modelling for the third model, the authors must specify how they decided on the final model. Have they presented a saturated model, or have they tried some stepwise techniques, or have they selected the model in some other way? None of these approaches is wrong but it is important that these are specified so we can judge. I assume they are presenting a saturated model, but I would suggest a ‘trimming’ of the model in table 6 to reduce the ‘noise’ and increase the clarity of their message. How they do this should ideally be guided by their opinions of what the more important variables are.

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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)

What statistical software was used? It is worth specifying this.
Gender should be termed ‘sex’
Table 6 is age also in decades, this should also be specified

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I am concerned that there must be some collinearity between unemployment and public insurance; though I accept the author’s arguments about the way they have explored this.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests