Reviewer's report

Title: Mental health (GHQ12; CES-D) and value attributed to work among inmates of a semi-open prison and the long-term unemployed in Luxembourg

Version: 1 Date: 14 December 2007

Reviewer: Bruce B Way

Reviewer's report:

Overall, the paper is well written and contains interesting findings.

I would suggest that a little more information is provided on the instruments. Perhaps a sample item or two, and some citations on psychometrics. Citations listed for most part would be hard to obtain. Reader is taking on faith these are good instruments. Different scales are used in the US.

In the Tables the last column to the right seems unnecessary. Many journals also wish to include Chi Square Scores and Degrees of freedom.

The types of regression methods used are unspecified. Also, I think the total adjusted R square for each model is not specified. Rather only the amount due "perceived value of work."

Further investigation into variables related to prison psychological distress would be very useful to the correctional psychiatric field.

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