Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Does self-rated health reflect social circumstances? Occupational social class and self-rated health in men and women: A cross-sectional study in the European Prospective Investigation of Cancer and Nutrition in Norfolk (EPIC-Norfolk) cohort

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 April 2008

**Reviewer:** Ossi Rahkonen

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major compulsory**

1. Adjusting for health behaviour didn’t affect on odds ratios in men at all, somewhat in women. Alcohol drinking varied differently by social class than other ‘behaviours’. Perhaps it is not proper to adjust all such factors simultaneously, some factors (behaviours) may work on the other direction. The authors should adjust health behaviours one by one to see what really happens.

2. Age differences are important and neglected in SES studies, the authors could concentrate on health inequalities by age.

**Minor essential**

1. Measuring women’s occupational class by using husbands’ class is often used but is it best way to examine women’s social class. This needs a comment. Table 1; when social class both in women and men is measured by men’s class, do we expect a statistically significant differences between men and women? Is that significant difference only based on large data?

2. The paper includes too much discussion on mortality, as mortality is not the topic of the paper, most sentences on mortality could be omitted.

3. I would like to see some more about data, response rate etc.

4. Why SES of the unemployed was not measured using the last occupation?

5. In the Discussion there is a comment on qualitative studies and references (41, 43), I think those are not qualitative studies. Next sentence on that page needs a reference.

**Disc... revisions**

1. Table 4; Confidence intervals are enough, p-values are not needed

2. Table 3, no decimals needed (12.6 -> 13 etc.)

3. Large data, almost all minor differences are statistically significant, it’s proper to look what differences are substantially significant.

4. ‘Active & moderately...’ should be ‘active and moderately...’.

5. I missed the page numbers.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'