Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The contribution of childhood circumstances, current circumstances and health behaviour to educational health differences in early adulthood.

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 2 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Anne Hammarström

**Reviewer’s report:**

Overall, the MS is much improved. The authors have made good answers to those of my comments that can be changed.

However, my major criticism - the weakness of the cross sectional design of the study in relation to the research question - cannot be changed. The main problematic retrospective variables are "childhood adversities" and "health in childhood" (it is also unclear what that variable actually measures). Thus, the risk of recall bias could violate the results. Chronic diseases are often not correlated to self-reported health in young ages, thus that variable cannot be used as an indicator of health-related selection.

A minor comment: my comment nr 5 dealt with the question whether the authors present bivariate or multivariate regression analyses in Table 2.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**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' below