Reviewer's report

Title: Pathways into homelessness: recently homeless adults problems and service use before and after becoming homeless in Amsterdam

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Reviewer: Jeffrey Turnbull

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the article entitled "Pathways into homelessness: recently homeless adults problems and service use before and after becoming homeless in Amsterdam"

Determining the pathways into homelessness is a relevant and important question for those involved in the social and medical care of the homeless as well as policymakers.

The issues and methodology are well defined. This is a convenience sample that is generalizable to the overall population that we commonly see. The authors should outline: ethics approval, any encouragement for participation, duration of interview, exclusion criteria. It should be noted that adolescents were not included and it was not clear if families were considered (it is likely that the pathways are different for these groups). Individuals were not stratified in accordance with certain factors that may suggest resilience such as pre-existing social support systems (a job, families, friends). Finally, self-reported psychiatric disease and descriptions of services is often problematic in this setting and should be stated as a limitation.

The data analysis are generally descriptive with a few simple statistical comparisons. Qualitative or narrative summaries would be additional supportive information. There is no effort to triangulate or corroborate the data received.

The discussion and conclusions are appropriate however it is very important to clarify further reasons for eviction.. As there are specific interventions required for each such as rent banks, drug and alcohol addiction counseling. I was surprised that hospitalization was not an important cause of eviction and it would be important to know how accessible subsidized housing is with ongoing social and medical support.

Overall, I found this paper worthy of publication with the above comments. There were certain grammatical errors which I have not corrected which need to be addressed nevertheless, it does provide additional information for those who are responsible for the care and overall well-being of the homeless within our communities.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.