Reviewer's report

Title: Coping and back problems: Part 1. Analysis of multiple data sources on an entire cross-sectional cohort of Swedish military recruits.

Version: 2 Date: 26 January 2006

Reviewer: Alex Burdorf

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)

It is of interest to learn that 3 reviewers make exactly the same remark with regard to the definition of the independent factors in this cross-sectional design. I am still inclined to ask for NOT using the word predictor, since it has a specific definition (see eg. Last Dictionary of Epidemiology). I have no problems that in the discussion the question is raised whether the determinants/factors are also predictors etc, but one cannot simply introduce an own terminology.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'