Reviewer's report

Title: Social, behavioral, and sleep characteristics associated with depression symptoms among undergraduate students at a women's college: A cross-sectional stress and depression survey, 2012

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: Deborah Kim

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please define Women's college students in abstract and manuscript.
2. Please put in introduction why this is important, why you expect it to be different to look at single sex institutions and whether you think this will represent all female only colleges.
3. Please explain why you chose the 2 scales you did.
4. Please explain why the response rate was so low and whether you think there is a difference between responders and non-responders.
5. On page 8, sentence 2, did you mean absence of strong social support?
6. All you can say is that poor sleep is associated with depression and because depression causes poor sleep, you can't infer causality.
7. Are there other variables you wish you had examined? Why didn't you also look at rates of anxiety or eating disorders for example?
8. What about the rates of suicidality?
9. Table 4's title is not appropriate for its content.

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:

None