Reviewer's report

Title: Help seeking behaviour among prisoners in Norway

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Reviewer: Martin MD Driessen

Reviewer's report:

This multilevel investigation in 29 prisons focusses on the prediction of help-seeking behaviors in prisoners. Results primarily show that current sleep problems as well as drug problems before imprisonment enhance help seeking.

This study is well performed, statistics are very clear as well as the results. The issue is highly important, e.g. because inmates are discharged at any time and it can be assumed that outcome is worse if health problems are not treated during stay at prison adequately.

I enjoyed to read this well written manuscript.

I have few but two major problems with the paper, which I guess, however, are easy to revise.

1. Hypotheses are missing, but I guess the authors had some according to their research questions.

2. Discussion, page 9: Authors hypothesize that attenuation of mental health problems in the adjusted vs unadjusted analyses may be due to the fact that sleep problems are easier to seek help for than mental help problems. If so one should expect a clear association between sleep disorders and mental health problems. The authors should analyse this association (e.g. by correlational analysis, also sleep x physical health for comparison) and report these data in the result section. Then they can discuss this issue more profound in the discussion section. This is an important issue because a clear association would indicate that sleep disorders need more attention in inmates.

One minor essential problem:

3. Statistics, page 7: Control for length of imprisonment, please report mean, sd and median. Were there differences between prisons?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.