Reviewer's report

Title: What socio-demographic factors influence poverty and access to health care among disabled people in Flanders? A cross-sectional survey

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Reviewer: Jan DE LEPELEIRE

Reviewer's report:

It is an important paper revealing important issues of the belgian social security system.

Pag 4. Working myself in the Belgian system, I don't understand which five levels of dependency the authors used. Can they clarify it. It is not as far as I understand the Katz scale.

One difficulty with the paper is the use of 'independency level' although in our system, everything is connected to the dependency level. Therefore page 9 the first lines one has to think to understand what happens.

pag 7: The authors don't explain in the discussion section how living with someone, which in my idea should help not to get into poverty, is a risk factor for poverty.

Discussion section

What I miss are some reflections on the results of this study and recent findings in Belgium concerning differences in life expectancy of lower educated people or the issue of 'the sociale kloof'.

Can the authors do more elaborated suggestions as to further research?

Recently the flemish government proposed some new funding systems. Without getting political in a scientific paper, do the authors have any idea whether or not this could be a help?

Have the authors any comparison as to the level of institutionalisation of disabled people in general and in this sample compared to other regions and countries?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
In this field I have no competing interest except that I know personally some of the authors.