Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-reported data in environmental health studies: Mail vs. Web-based surveys

Version: 1 Date: 31 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Morgan Millar

Reviewer's report:

Thank you to the authors for the detailed and thorough responses to the reviewer and editor comments. The revised manuscript is improved considerably.

A couple of minor points:

Page 1, line 9: surveys are generally not a qualitative research method.

Page 3, line 12: typo of "last" should be "least"

Page 4, line 16: the letters were addressed to the "householder". It would be helpful to specify if there were any instructions as to which adult household member should complete the questionnaire

Page 6, line 23: Why is sickness classified as a reason for ineligibility, rather than a refusal? It is rather unusual to exclude refusals from the denominator. Furthermore, the phrase "the person does not live in the address" does not make sense given the letters were not addressed to a specific person. Relatedly, in Table 1: it seems like the refusals should be included in the denominator. How many households were classified as ineligible and subtracted out of the denominator?

Page 15, line 1: isn’t it more commonly found that older ages are more likely to respond than younger ages?
It is mentioned that the estimated time to complete the questionnaire was 10-12 minutes, but in the discussion of limitations seems to suggest it was a long survey. 10-12 minutes seems rather short. Can the authors specify the number of items or page numbers, and perhaps include the questionnaire as a supplementary file?

Were any incentives offered for participation? If so, this should be specified in the study design. If not, this may be added to the discussion of limitations regarding the low response rates in the discussion.

Tables

The p-values associated with Tables 1 and 2 (as reported in the text) should be added to their respective tables.

Table 1: notes have typo of "diving" rather than "dividing"

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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