Reviewer’s report

Title: Social Cohesion, Belonging, and Changes Therein Predict the Well-Being of Community-Dwelling Older People in the Netherlands over Time

Version: 2 Date: 9 December 2014

Reviewer: Abebaw, Mengistu Yohannes

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

This study examined the social cohesion, belonging as predictors of the well-being of older people in the Netherlands with two years longitudinal follow-up. It is a well-written paper.

I have the following comments for the authors’ consideration to improve the message of the paper.

Abstract

1) The abstract will benefit by having one or two lines of statement about the background of the study.
2) The study aims are...
3) Methods should include the number of participants, and their mean age in the study.

Methods

4) Add a reference number for the ethics approval for the study.
5) Please add if there were any inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study.
6) Explain the methods you have used to select randomly from the population register dataset.

Results

7) It will be helpful to add ‘No change in overall .... add the exact p-values in the text.
8) Seventeen percent of the participants were immigrant to the Netherlands. It will be helpful to add their socio-demographic characteristics in Table 1 and compare their results with the natives. It requires a bit of analysis comparing the two groups with their p-values. In my view, this illuminate the findings of the paper.
9) Are the responders different compared to non-responders in the follow-up period?. Again you can make further analysis in this area as well.

Discussion

10) Briefly discuss the analysis you have done in question seven.
11) The title is a bit long and wordy – perhaps it needs tightening up.
12) In places you say, “Many… but you make one reference this needs correcting.”
13) In the limitation section perhaps you can comment about the response rate and ways to improve for future research.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
None