Reviewer’s report

Title: Unmet healthcare needs of elderly people in Korea

Version: 1 Date: 27 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Chakra Budhathoki

Reviewer's report:
Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format. Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

General comments:

Overall, very interesting manuscript!

Specific comments:
Abstract:
Provide 95% confidence interval around prevalence estimate.
Lines 28-33: In interpreting odds ratio in results section, say higher or lower odds of unmet healthcare needs instead of just saying the factors x or y were related

Study population:
Lines 80-82: There are substantial missing values. It would be helpful to assess the difference between two groups: those missing data on variable unmet need and those with data on unmet need on important characteristics like demographics. If the differences are significant, perhaps there is significant bias in your analysis sample. As the sample size would be large for these comparisons, it would be important to look at magnitude of difference rather than their statistical significance. It is probably ok if you can show some evidence or confidence that the sample you
analyzed including \(n=8666\) is also typical of your full and complex sample of \(n=47,746\) that was claimed to be nationally representative.

Analysis:
It is not clear whether the researchers took the complex sampling structure into their analysis, and their sample was a complex one (two-stage, stratified cluster sample). This structure/design should be taken into account. SPSS or other software programs typically include complex data analysis modules. You can run the same tests and models but the complex sample structure should be taken into account.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable
**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
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