Reviewer’s report

Title: Living alone and mortality among older people in Västerbotten County in Sweden: a survey and register-based longitudinal study

Version: 1 Date: 27 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Jussi Tanskanen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has developed nicely. There are however few minor considerations.

Comment 1. In abstract it would be better to rather present the number of participants than the person-years of observation.

Comment 2. The introduction should state the age-groups that are studied.

Comment 3. There is still ambiguity regarding the age of participants. First you mention: "In this paper, we focused on individuals aged 50 and 60 years…" (also in abstract and conclusions) but later on: "Socio-demographic variables included were: sex (men and women); age group (40, 50, 60 years)…" Are there 40 year olds in the data or not?

Comment 4. I think the Discussion or Results would be a better place for discussion about sensitivity analysis than Methods section.

Comment 5. You wrote in the introduction: "By including various covariates in the analysis, we have explored the extent to which the association between living alone and mortality can be explained by lifestyle factors, socioeconomic position, ill-health and access to social capital.", but interpreting and discussion of this topic is lacking. Because you don't perform mediation analysis it might be wise to change this sentence.
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?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

Yes

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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