Reviewer’s report

Title: Longitudinal and reciprocal associations between financial strain, home characteristics and mobility in the National Health and Aging Trends Study

Version: 0  Date: 04 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Tami Saito

Reviewer's report:

I have read the manuscript thoroughly. The manuscript may interest many readers of this journal because the authors focus on reciprocal relationships among financial strain, home environment, and physical mobility, which appear unique and important. One of the strengths of the manuscript is the use of a nationally representative sample of American older adults who need care. The manuscript is generally well written.

I have several comments that I hope will be helpful to further improve the manuscript's significance.

1. A figure of the conceptual framework will help readers understand the hypothesis of this study. Because this study deals with six variables, each of which are interrelated, it was difficult for me to understand the hypothesis clearly in the Introduction section.

2. Please use sub-sections for each variable in the Measurement section for better readability. Key variables such as walking scores, financial strain, and the home disorder index should be verified by citing appropriate references.

3. I do not understand the reason the authors included income as a covariate in the analyses. What does financial strain adjusted by the actual income level mean?

4. The discussion appears redundant, particularly in the 1st and 5th paragraphs.

5. I suppose the number of cases (n = 3234) in Table 3 is incorrect because this analysis limited the cases involving the ability to walk.

6. I suggest that the authors add additional supplementary figures, reflecting the findings in Tables 2 and 3 to their final model (Figure 2), for better understanding. I do not mean to put coefficients on the figures, but to clearly indicate significant and non-significant arrows differentially (by using bold or colored lines, etc.).
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.

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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