Reviewer’s report

Title: Characterizing the Disability Experience among Adults Living with HIV: A Structural Equation Model Using the HIV Disability Questionnaire (HDQ) within the HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey

Version: 2 Date: 17 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes

Reviewer comments: I wanted to thank you for your hard work on this and for implementing most of my comments. I do think the paper is improved as a result. However, I am not convinced that the values reported in APPENDIX 7.A (in Kline et al, Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling, 3rd Edition) can be used for defining the magnitude of the effect. The APPENDIX 7.A reports start value suggestions for structural models. Therefore, this practice guideline is not intended as a source of guidance in the evaluation of the effect size. Moreover, the values reported here cannot be considered valid for different research areas. In my opinion, standardized regression coefficients are not able to determine the relative importance of individual predictors. Another issue that has to be carefully considered is the use of mean imputation of missing values.

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.

No
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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