Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristic distribution of the total and individual item scores on the Kessler Screening Scale for Psychological Distress (K6) in US adults

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Rob Saunders

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be commended on their quick and detailed response to the previously raised comments. Overall the changes have resulted in an improved and strong manuscript.

Having read through the manuscript with the changes, I felt there were just two minor areas where I’d suggest small discretionary changes, again just to improve the read and clarity.

Abstract:

*Conclusion: "The present results potentially enable estimation of how depressive symptoms distribute in the general population." - Suggest amended to 'The results presented have the potential to estimate the distribution of depressive symptoms in the general population'.

Discussion:

*I still feel some small mention of the variation at the high end should be mentioned in the discussion for balance. I appreciate you've mentioned in the results section, and I think the additions here work well, but it's still something to mention in the discussion - in one sense it's a finding that must be apparent in all research like this as extreme scorers are very rare in a general population. Potential for future research in this area??
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.

Unable to assess

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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