Reviewer's report

Title: Acceptance of sexual minorities and the mediating role of social capital on health and well-being among members of same-sex and opposite-sex couples: a cross-European study.

Version: 2 Date: 24 January 2015

Reviewer: David Plummer

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper on an important topic. I recommend acceptance once the following issues are addressed.

The database on which the paper is based appears to be reliable and of high quality.

The analysis drills down to country level and this raises questions about the sample size when doing such fine grained analysis. I would also like confirmation that the technical details of the statistical measures used have been applied appropriately. Statistical review is recommended. The statistical reviewer might also like to comment on ways to simplify and condense the data presentation / tables.

Minor essential revisions

The English expression is a little awkward at points and could benefit from editing prior to publication, including the following:

line 59 use plural 'forms'
line 68 change 'are often' to 'have been'
line 73 change 'could' to 'can'
line 76 don't start sentence with unspecified 'It'
line 77 need to specify 'it'
line 79 the sentence starting with 'The cognitive' is unclear
line 85 'According to the theory of social capital' needs referencing
line 94 'less plausibly serving as a social safety nets' needs correcting
line 95 replace 'ethnical' with 'ethnic'
line 96 change to 'affecting health directly'
line 97 change 'concept' to 'influence'
line 97 delete 'its'
line 108 change 'has been' to 'was'
lines 112-113 awkward repetition of similar words. Change 'various' to 'a range';
change 'variability' to 'variation'; change 'varied' to 'ranged'
line 125 delete 'completely and change to 'handled anonymously and is openly available'
line 117 change 'year' to 'years'
line 135 insert a comma after 'education'
line 136 delete 'the' from 'the opposite sex'
line 141 delete 'different' from 'two different groups'
line 163 insert 'factors' after 'structural'
line 164 change 'in total' to 'a total of'
line 170 delete 'was'
line 187 delete 'derived from that and'
the results reported from lines 252 to the discussion should be cross-referenced to the tables
line 277 insert 'an' to read 'at an individual'
line 278 change to 'living as couples'
line 309 unclear, probably should read 'accounted for BY income levels'?
line 321 change 'sting' to 'impact'
line 326 change to 'The literature'
line 334 delete 'in that'
line 335 change to 'at a country level'
line 337 delete 'rather'
line 337 change to 'at a neighbourhood level'
line 339 change to 'social environments as a frame of reference' 
line 346 delete 'partially'
line 350 change 'of' to 'to'
line 364 change to 'at a lower than country level'

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'