Reviewer’s report
Title: Long work hours and sickness absence—A fixed effects design

Version: 1 Date: 14 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Katja Spanier

Reviewer's report:
The manuscript now titled "Long working hours absence - a fixed effects design" very well benefited from the revision in my point of view. The major concerns i had about the sampling could be allayed by the flow chart that was additionally inserted by the author. The fixed effect design provides as i mentioned before a valuable contribution to recent occupational reseach. So I think the manuscript is quiet suitable for publishing.

There is a very little comment i want to make concerning figure 1 and the corresponding text passage: In the column of between-individual sampling you mention employees that are exluded because they are not worked 12 months. The corresponding text passage says 2 years. This needs to be revised.

Another comment focusses the sampling, the generalizability and the probability of a selection bias. Lots of employees had to excluded by several criteria for the analyses and for the statistical design. These effects are very common due these procedures, but the loss needs to be discussed or at least mentioned as a limitation. To which extent you think there is a risk of a selection bias? Maybe it helps if you define the entire sample you wish to analyse, e. g. full-time workers with at least 2 year-contracts without break in this working time (e.g. parental leave, sabbatibal break).

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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