Reviewer’s report

Title: Do trajectories of economic, work- and health-related disadvantages explain child welfare clients’ increased mortality risk? A prospective cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 01 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Fengqing Chao

Reviewer’s report:

This study targets on an important social issue. I have a few main comments and would like the authors to clarify.

Firstly, regression analyses estimate the correlation between dependent and independent variables. When showing the results of statistically significant difference between reference group and those who were not investigates or placed, have you considered the possibility that this result may be due to some other confounding factors? Given that you are using data from a certain cohort, is it possible that some underlying cohort effect may also lead to similar findings? It would be nice for the authors to discuss this.

Secondly, have you considered using marital status (family structure) as one of the variables for life disadvantage? For instance, those who had experience of OHC may have higher risk of having shorter marriage/partnership or living alone than those without the experience.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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