Reviewer’s report

Title: Indicator-Based Public Health Monitoring in Old Age in OECD Member Countries: A Scoping Review

Version: 0 Date: 07 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

No - there are minor issues

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

N/A - there are no statistics in this study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: My overall impression is that this is a study that has been carried out efficiently, however further work is needed to address some issues related to the interpretation of the results.

Strengths

The study used a satisfactory methodology, searching websites of public health institutes, Google, and MEDLINE and summarised the results using a framework based on the WHO report ageing and health and the ICF.

REQUESTED REVISIONS: The main weakness of the methodology is one that was identified by the authors in that they only searched in English and German, thus effectively limiting the results to English speaking countries. In addition, the analysis was primarily descriptive, providing tables and figures of the indicators used in each data set, but offering little comment or insight into the indicator sets used.

How do the authors plan to use this information to develop a system in Germany? A study of the differences in the indicator sets both within and between countries would also be of interest.

It would be worthwhile providing more information on the records excluded at each stage of the search process, particularly in relation to the countries with no information available.

Likewise, the search strategy did not provide any detail of the how the key words were combined in the search. It would have been worthwhile directly contacting the public health authorities in countries where no results were available to determine whether or not an indicator was available.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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