Author’s response to reviews

Title: Is caregiving by Baby Boomer women related to the presence of depressive symptoms? Evidence from eight national surveys

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a revised research article entitled "Do caregiving matter in depressive symptoms among Baby Boomer women? Evidence from nineteen countries" (MS ID BMWH-D-18-00143), which we are resubmitting for possible publication in BMC Women’s Health. I would like to thank you and the reviewer for the constructive comments on our previously submitted manuscript. The manuscript has been revised in response to the points raised by you. Our response to each enumerated concern of Editor and the reviewer is given below.

Editor Comments:

Reviewer #1:

1. Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

REPLY: We would like to thank Editor and the reviewer for the comments and the opportunity to revise our previous manuscript. As suggested, we have uploaded annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials as attachments.

2. This submission reports on an amalgamation of 7 large population studies taken from a few different parts of Asia and Europe. The sample size is large, over 16000. Like other papers
which put together, the surveys use different measures. The biggest issue is the definition of "caregiving". The authors acknowledge that in CHARLS, instrumental caring is used as a proxy for personal care and also it could be a variety of family members or friends one is caring for. I think this is a great assumption and might skew some of the analysis and thus results. I would expect the general trend of results to be similar, but if this survey was omitted I wonder what the statistical significance would be.

REPLY: As suggested, we conducted additional analyses that omitted the CHARLS survey and similar results were found (Discussions section, line 26-34, page 19).

3. A few grammatical errors, eg p 19, line 34 "marital status, another factorS" - should be singular. Also on p 19, the authors write "an interesting case in the People's Republic of China..." but do not seem to complete this paragraph in how it relates to this study and/or caring.

REPLY: We have revised grammatical errors as suggested.

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**Declarations**

- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
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