Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2018

Reviewer: Samantha Loi

Reviewer's report:

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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 'careiving'. 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.

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.

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.

No

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

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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