Author’s response to reviews

Title: The gravitational force of mental health services: Distance decay effects in a rural Swiss service area

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Shidhaye,

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript (BHSR-D-17-00617_R2) and to resubmit our revision to BMC Health Services Research. We appreciate the careful reading by you and the two reviewers, and we have tried to respond to the comments in the enclosed revised version.

Below, we describe how the paper has been revised in response to the remaining points you and the two reviewers raised. Should you or the reviewers have any further suggestions that they consider would enhance the paper then, we would of course be willing to take such suggestions on board.

1. Please copy your statement on ethical approval from your main text (Methods) section into the ‘Ethical approval and consent to participate’ section.

We copied the statement on ethical approval from the Methods section into the ‘Ethical approval and consent to participate’ section (cf. p. 19).
2. Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Currently, the contributions of authors Eva-Maria Pichler and Wolfram Kawohl are not clear, and do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their names from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead. Please note that any changes in the list of authors requires the completion of the “Change in authorship” form.

Eva-Maria Pichler and Wolfram Kawohl both made substantive intellectual contributions to the interpretation of data and were involved in revising the manuscript critically for important intellectual content. The respective section of the manuscript revised as follows: “NS analyzed and interpreted the data and drafted the manuscript. EMP und WK both made substantive intellectual contributions to the interpretation of data and were involved in revising the manuscript critically for important intellectual content. UH contributed to data interpretation and was a major contributor in writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.” (pp. 19-20).

3. Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Done (cf. p. 18).

4. Please combine Figure parts (a and b) into a single document for each Figure (as you did with Figure 3).

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5. Please provide your figure legends under a 'Figure Legends' heading.

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6. Please remove figure titles from Figures 1 and 2 and add them to the figure legends in the 'Figure Legends' section.

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7. Please state in the cover letter whether the map depicted in Figure 1 and Figure 2 are your own or taken from another source. If taken from another source please acknowledge the source in the figure legends, and if it is under copyright also state the written permission given to use and adapt it.

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The maps depicted in Figure 1 and Figure 2 were prepared on our request by the AGIS Service Center of the Department of Finance and Resources of the Canton of Aargau. The AGIS Service Center permitted publication under the condition that the figures contain the AGIS logo. We added the source (“Data of the Canton of Aargau”) to the Figure legends, and we express our thanks to Armin Meier and his team at the AGIS Service Center in the Acknowledgments section.
We hope that the changes we have made are satisfactory. We would of course be willing to take any further suggestions of the reviewers on board. Thanks once again for your efforts in this review process.

Sincerely,

Niklaus Stulz