Reviewer’s report

Title: Mental wellbeing among Hispanic female domestic cleaners

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2019

Reviewer: Maria Victoria Zunzunegui

Reviewer's report:

This is a small pilot study on an invisible population of domestic cleaners, all of them women and almost all of them Hispanic, working in San Antonio, Texas. It is a pilot study worthy of publication given the lack of literature on the health of domestic cleaners. However, several changes are needed before consideration for publication.

1. More details on recruitment methods are needed. Where, when and how were women recruited in the study?

2. Ethical considerations. Was the study approved by an Ethics Committee? Were participant women asked to give informed consent?

3. How was the study explained to potential participants?

4. At the end of the results section the authors wrote: "There were no statistically significant differences in the prevalence of poor mental wellbeing by socioeconomic, neighborhood, or health characteristics » This sentence is contrary to the findings that women with lowest education, those who perceived their neighborhood as unsafe and those who reported musculoskeletal pain have poorer mental health. Please, clarify.

5. The WHO-5 index has been widely used, as the authors of the cited systematic review (Topp CW, Østergaard SD, Søndergaard S, Bech P), explain in their abstract. Please change sentence in limitations section of the discussion.
6. Given the small sample size, statistical differences should be indicated in Table 1 for all variables. It is hard to read all 95% confidence intervals and assess the possible significance of the associations. For instance the difference in poor mental well-being between those who visit a private doctor and those who go to ER or public clinic is not significant (Chi-square p-value = 0.22). Please change statements about this non-significant difference accordingly.

7. Feeling unsafe and perceiving the neighborhood as unsafe may be indicating that these women have been subjected to street victimization, violence at work, or even domestic violence. All kinds of violence are risk factors for chronic diseases and inflammation. Please check the literature on domestic violence and gender violence and chronic conditions since this could be an important issue to be explored in future studies of the vulnerable population of domestic cleaners.

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