Reviewer’s report

Title: Urbanicity, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis functioning, and behavioral and emotional problems in children: A path analysis

Version: 0 Date: 05 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Shannin Moody

Reviewer's report:

Methods:

It was difficult to ascertain what exactly they were excluding from the analysis when choosing to drop the neighborhood variable from the analysis. Was it the neighborhoods computed from the principle component analysis? How many neighborhoods were there in total? The following sentence makes it a bit more confusing.

"We included children in the analyses if they lived in the same neighborhood between T1 and T2 in order to minimize within-subject variance in neighborhood-level variables (27 of the 513 moved neighborhoods and were excluded)."

The highlighted material should be clarified.

Controls:

A supplemental chart that shows the variability in urban verses rural areas would be helpful in gauging whether there was sufficient variability in their sample size. Especially considering that there were no significant differences found in urbanicity for the population.

Conclusions:

The author's conclusions and critiques of their work are very well pointed. I would have liked the have known whether the 10% of the lower SES participants showed any differences between the rest of the populations. The contribution of the paper seems almost as if it should read Urbanicity HPA axis functioning not associated with behavioral emotional problems in high SES families.
Statistics:

A supplemental chart that depicts the variability in urban verses rural areas would be helpful in gauging whether there was sufficient variability in their sample size. The mean was not helpful with ascertaining the variance.

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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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