Peer Review Report

Review Report on Factors associated with accessibility to mental healthcare services in Ukraine: Focused on household head vulnerability

Original Article, Int J Public Health

EVALUATION

Q 1   Please summarize the main findings of the study.

According to a secondary data analysis for household heads in Donbas, Ukraine, factors associated with household member's access to mental health care were the age of a household head, reduced health expenditure, distance to health facilities, and awareness regarding eligibility for medical assistance.

Q 2   Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

The data on access to mental health care for household members were obtained from a household head as a subjective response. It is not clear if there were mental health services that met the demand among people at the study site. Nevertheless, the data show an insufficiency in access to mental health care.

Q 3   Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

1. Mental health services available in the study site: As of 2020, what kinds of mental health services were available in the study site? Was the number of mental health specialists sufficient? It is good to have such contextual information in the Background section.
2. Eligibility: The authors analyzed 876 respondents in this analysis from data collected from 1617 households. How did the authors screen the respondents to decide to include 876? Please add descriptions in the Methods section.
3. Eligibility: Did the 2020 Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment had any particular eligibility criteria to be included in the assessment? Please clarify.
4. Multicollinearity: Did the authors check the multicollinearity? Particularly, the regression model included a series of household vulnerability factors. It would be possible that these variables are correlated with each other and cancel out the influence on the outcome variable. The authors might want to examine multicollinearity if it was not examined and report it in the Methods or Results section.
5. Definitions of independent variables: It is unclear how medical assistance awareness and reduced health expenditure were measured and what these variables meant. What kinds of medical assistance was available and how people could know about the assistance? Does reduced health expenditure mean people spent less for health in a particular year? The authors might want to explain the definitions of these variables more in-depth manner and why these variables were chosen.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4   Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes, the title is alright.

Q 5   **Are the keywords appropriate?**

It is good to choose keywords from MeSH database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/) as the current keywords do not necessarily contribute to searchability.
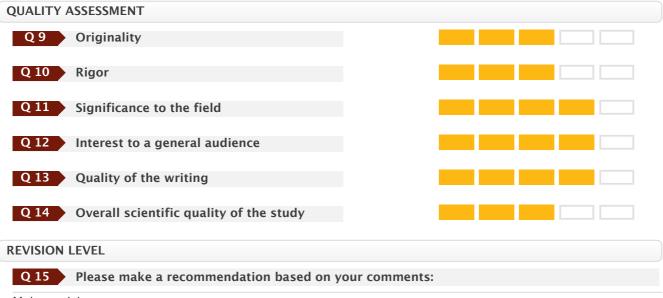
Q 6   **Is the English language of sufficient quality?**

The manuscript itself is easy to read.

Q 7   **Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?**

Yes.

Q 8   **Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)**

The authors might be able to include more on mental health care at a conflict setting and the availability of mental health services in Ukraine.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

		Rating
Q 9	Originality	■■■□□
Q 10	Rigor	■■■□□
Q 11	Significance to the field	■■■■□
Q 12	Interest to a general audience	■■■■□
Q 13	Quality of the writing	■■■■□
Q 14	Overall scientific quality of the study	■■■□□

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15   **Please make a recommendation based on your comments:**

Major revisions.