Reviewer’s report

Title: Magnitude of income-related disparities in adverse perinatal outcomes

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Reviewer: Gloria Pérez

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting article that looks at the magnitude of income-related disparities in adverse perinatal outcome in a region of Canada.

The article is valuable but has a number of issues that need to be addressed.

Major compulsory revisions:

Needs changes in the background:

Page 3: In the conceptual framework when the authors mentioned “environmental level in relation to availability of prenatal care” that possible means the political context o the political determinants in which health care services are included.

A more developed conceptual framework could help to understand the relationship between income and adverse perinatal outcomes.

Alone mothers are considered vulnerable populations?

Page 3 and 4: the authors mentioned “We argue that risk factors such as environmental toxins should correctly be considered mediators of health effects related to income, rather than confounders” but it is no clear the relationship with SEP and adverse perinatal outcomes.

Methodology:

The description of information sources assumes that everybody knows about the Canadian system. Some questions about methodology:

Design and study population is not described

Unit of analysis is not described

Which reference curves are used to assign the percentiles of low weight for gestational age, include a reference

Mentioned the institution source of information. Who declare births in the register? It is exhaustive?

Which is the T1 Family File?

Identify which are the dependent variables?

Which are the independent variables?

More information about excluded cases is required e.g. if there were information about income and not about adverse perinatal outcome, the missing cases were distributed in all groups of income?
In the discussion the authors assume that the readers know the Canadian health care system. Explain about universal covertures of health care services in order to discuss implications for other countries.

Minor essential revisions
Yes but in table and figures labelled if the percentile 25 are the best or the worse in order to better interpret the tables and figures

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests