Reviewer's report

Title: Employment, income, and education and prevalence of depressive symptoms during pregnancy: The Kyushu Okinawa Maternal and Child Health Study

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2012

Reviewer: John Eastwood

Reviewer's report:

`This study makes a useful contribution to the study of maternal depression during pregnancy and to the determinants of this important public health problem. The major weakness of this study, representativeness, is acknowledged by the authors in the last paragraph on page 9. The authors cannot address this limitation of the study by revision of the paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Nil

Minor Essential Revisions
Nil

Discretionary Revisions

The English language is clumsy in places and would benefit from some editing. In this study the variable of interest is held as the reference variable and consequently the Odds Ratios of the covariants are less than 1. It would be more meaningful if full employment was the reference variable and then the OR of unemployment would be a positive number. It would be a significant piece of work for the authors to reanalyse their data in this way.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests