Reviewer's report

Title: Suicide rates and income in Sao Paulo and Brazil: a temporal and spatial epidemiologic analysis from 1996 to 2008.

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2012

Reviewer: Ying-Yeh Chen

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions --
Income inequality (Gini coefficient) was not included to the analysis, apparently income inequality was a confounder between the relationship between income and suicide rates, it is related to the exposure (income) and can be a causal factor of the outcome variable (suicide). I understand that HDI and education were not included to the regression as these two variables were highly correlated to income (0.92 and 0.87 respectively) and conceptually these two variables were more similar to income (all can be considered as SES indicators), however, the correlation between Gini and income was not that high (-0.66) and the meaning of these two contextual variables are different. I don't agree to leave Gini out of the equation. It is possible that when both are included, you won't find any correlation between income and suicide.

Data quality issue threatens the validity of the results.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

none declared