Author's response to reviews

Title: The leading methods of suicide in Taiwan, 2002-2008

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RE: “The leading methods of suicide in Taiwan, 2002-2008”.

Dear editor and reviewers:

Thank you very much for your helpful comments. We have revised the manuscript according to your suggestions. Followings are our replies to each comment. We look forward to hearing from your further comments.

Sincerely,

Jin-Jia Lin, M.D.
Shu-Sen Chang, M.D.
Tsung-Hsueh Lu, M.D. Ph.D.

Editorial comments:

On submission of your revised manuscript, we require that you add a statement to your manuscript documenting whether specific approval was required for use of the data in your study. If no specific approval was required, this should also be stated: Experimental research that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm), and any experimental research on animals must follow internationally recognized guidelines. A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

AUTHORS’ REPLY: We added the following statement:
The first sentence in the Method section (page 8).
This study used officially published data, therefore no approval is required.

Reviewer’s comment

According to your data there are four leading methods of suicides in Taiwan. Charcoal Burning 29% (n=4110), Pesticides 12% (n=1651) Hanging 30% (n=4280) and Jumping.
By reading the method the reader understand only three methods among them except Pesticides. Why you need to give bit more clarification on Pesticides as it can be several type of pesticide and if you don’t explain this the reader doesn’t not know what type of Pesticide used in Taiwan to commit suicide. Also it is important as it is one of the major methods of committing suicide in Taiwan.

**AUTHORS’ REPLY:** Thank you for your suggestion. We have asked Office of Statistics, Department of Health to provide us the information. We added this in the Method section and Results section

*Last sentence in page 7 (Method section)*

To better understand the distribution of various types of pesticides used in Taiwan, we requested Office of Statistics, Department of Health to provide statistics of types of the pesticides reported on death certificate for years 2006-08.

*Last paragraph in page 10 (Results section)*

Of 1651 suicides by pesticides occurred between 2006 and 2008, 541 (32.8%) cases used herbicides, 306 (18.5%) cases used insecticides, 38 (2.3%) cases used other pesticides, and 766 (46.4%) cases did not report specified type of pesticides. Paraquat was the most common used herbicides (471 cases) and organophosphates (130 cases) and methomyl (97 cases) were the two most often used insecticides in Taiwan.