Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of Anti-tuberculosis Drug Resistance in a Chinese Population: Current Situation and Challenges Ahead

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2011

Reviewer: isabelle devaux

Reviewer's report:

The authors have carefully included the comments from the reviewers. Some minor clarifications are still needed:

P6 Thirty counties (districts) from Jiangsu province were systematically selected and the sample size of study subjects was estimated based on the following parameters:

(1) The annual reported new sputum smear positive (SS+) cases were 23603 and previously treated SS+ cases were 5524 (based on unpublished surveillance data in Jiangsu province);

(2) The precision was set at 2% for new cases and 4% for previously treated cases;

(3) The initial monodrug resistance rate was set at 6% among new cases and 16% among previously treated cases based on the proportion of rifampicin resistant isolates from the previous pilot study;

Additionally, the sample size was amplified by taking into account the design effect of the cluster sampling method and potential no-response of study subjects.

If (1) is based on surveillance data from Jiangsu Provincial Center for Disease Prevention and Control, are not these data published by the Chinese CDC?

Could it be possible to describe briefly the “pilot study” to which the authors refer in (3)?

Could the authors discuss the advantages/inconvenient of cluster sampling compared to random sampling and explain how it can impact the results of the survey?

Thank you very much

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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