Author's response to reviews

Title: Preventable maternal mortality: regional disparity and associated factors from the population-based maternal mortality surveillance system in China

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Dear Dr. Norton,

I am sending a manuscript entitled “Preventable maternal mortality: regional disparity and associated factors from the population-based maternal mortality surveillance system in China” by Juan Liang, which we wish to submit for consideration as a Research Article in the *BMC Public Health*.

Each year 500 000 maternal deaths are reported around the world, bringing immeasurable emotional and economic losses to the individual, family and the society. However, most of these deaths could have been prevented. China is among the 13 countries that have the largest numbers of maternal deaths, and the reduction in maternal mortality ratio of China will undoubtedly contribute to the decline of MMR on a global basis. The present report describes the geographic and rural-urban differences, trend and major features of the preventable maternal mortality in China between 1996 and 2005, and explored the major factors associated with maternal death. We try to find effective interventions to prevent maternal death in China. We think our research is of interest to your readership because the experience of China in preventing maternal death may benefit other countries, especially developing countries, as well.

The authors guarantee that the manuscript has been submitted solely to the *BMC Public Health* and that it has not been previously published, either in whole or in part, nor have the findings been posted online.

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We appreciate your consideration of our manuscript, and we look forward to receiving comments from the reviewers.

Yours sincerely

Yanping Wang