Author's response to reviews

Title: The pesticide story: Taiwan suicide rates, 1985-2009

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-Chief

Thank you very much for letting us have chance to revise the manuscript. Sorry for delay in submitting the revised manuscript because we applied for a new mortality dataset from Department of Health of Taiwan that could better estimate pesticide suicide rates.

As all reviewers suggested of updating the mortality data, we therefore included the mortality data from 1994 to 2009. After adding the data of 1994 through 2009, we found that the changes in pesticide suicide rates became more complicated. We also found that the descriptive nature of this study is not suitable to test method substitution hypothesis. The title of the revised manuscript was thus changed into a more descriptive one “the pesticide story: Taiwan suicide rates, 1985 to 2009” as a corollary to the title of Kreitman’s classical paper “the coal gas story: United Kingdom suicide rates, 1960-71”. Followings are our specific response to each comment suggested by reviewers.

Sincerely,

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