Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in solids/liquids poisoning suicide rates in Taiwan: a test of the substitution hypothesis

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Reviewer: Kairi Kolves

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Paper “Trends in solids/liquids poisoning suicide rates in Taiwan: a test of substitution hypothesis” aims were to analyse whether there was a reduction in solids/liquids poisoning suicide rates in Taiwan after restrictions to pesticides and to test whether there was a substitution. Topic and results of the paper are very important considering the widespread use of pesticides as a suicide method in Asian countries. Overall paper is well written, short and to the point.

Major issue:
The main limitation of the paper is that it does not reflect the current situation, as the last year of the study period is almost 20 years ago - 1993. It makes reader wonder why did authors not include more recent years? Is it because there is no available data or maybe it did not fit with their hypothesis. Anyhow authors should discuss this limitation and also current situation.

Minor points:
* Aim should indicate time period.
* Time period chosen should be justified.
* There seems to be a missing word in the first sentence of the results section.
* There are no arrows presented in Figure 1 and there is a spelling mistake.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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