Author's response to reviews

Title: Morbid obesity in women on the rise: an observational, population-based study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
12 March, 2013

Dear Mr Silvestre

Re: 1476564654852480


Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. Reviewer 3’s comment has been addressed, as detailed overleaf.

We hope the revised version will be acceptable for publication.

Regards

Julie Pasco

Corresponding author
Response to reviewers

**Referee 2 - David Faeh**

*The authors have addressed all points raised.*

Response: None required.

**Referee 3 - Kathryn Backholer**

*The authors have adequately addressed most of the reviewers comments. However, the authors now state that the increase in morbid obesity was consistent across all ages and across SES strata - confirmed by a non-significant interaction term (SES*time period). However, given the small number of people that would have been morbidly obese and the further stratification by SES required for this interaction, it is very likely that there would have been insufficient power to conclusively test this. The authors should, at the very least, acknowledge these power limitations in the discussion.*

Response: This is a valid comment and this limitation has been emphasised in the text as follows:

Discussion (page 8): However, given the small number of morbidly obese women in our study, there may have been insufficient power to conclusively test for SES differences and it is plausible, that a larger sample size could show inequity in the rise of morbid obesity between SES groups.