Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of maternal anemia in rural Western China between 2001 and 2005: a two-level logistic regression approach

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Reviewer: Chaowei Fu

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Jiangxi Province locates in Eastern China so that the authors have to change the related descriptions of Western China in the manuscript.

2. In methods section, it should be descript if the same studied population was sampled or if the same counties, towns or villages were chosen in 2001 and in 2005.

3. What are the criteria of eligible subjects?

4. What is the quality control?

5. The statistical methods need to be addressed more clearly. For example, t test should not be used to test the difference between the prevalences of anemia in 2001 and in 2005.

6. Based on the crosssectional study design, ‘Predictors of anemia’ could not be assessed.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. As shown in methods section- ‘two population-based cross-sectional studies were conducted in 2001 and 2005 respectively’, ‘ the objectives of this study were to assess the tendency of anemia prevalence of women with a child aged <3 years from 2001 to 2005,’ will mislead the reader. The ‘difference between 2001 and 2005’ should be better than the ‘tendency from 2001 to 2005’.

2. ‘The mean±SD age’ should be corrected.

- Discretionary Revisions

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.