Reviewer's report

Title: Urbanization, urbanicity, and health: A systematic review of the psychometric properties of urbanisation scales

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2013

Reviewer: Xinhu Li

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is about an interesting topic and the autor reviewed many publications on it. However, the question is not well definced, and logical relationships among the sections of the manuscript should be well considered.

1. The authors listed wide-range findings on urbanization and health, but failed to give a systematic summary or systematic understanding and logical organization, which weakened the readability of the paper.

2. The purpose of this study was to assess the psychometric properties of the available urbanicity scales and identify areas where more research is needed to facilitate the development of a standardised measure of urbanicity. Although psychometric properties is also a key word in the title, the authors didn’t well defined the psychometric properties in the manuscript. Most of the content are still general not specific in psychometric properties. As a result, reader won’t get new knowledge from this paper except for the title. They couldn’t help to ask the question: What is the psychometric properties exactly on the earth?

3. The method used in this manuscript is something new and the reasonability is also a question. What is called a “systematic review”, and in fact is a selected review. Did that really make sense to assess many studies by sevel rules used in this manuscript? I don’t think it is meaningful.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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' below