Author's response to reviews

Title: The Impact of Fathers Physical and Psychosocial Work Conditions on Attempted and Completed Suicide Among their Children

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Author's response to reviews:

Response to reviewer #2: I've displayed the reviewers comments in quotes and responded in sentences following with no quotes.

According to this reviewer "The authors have addressed the points made in the previous comments. I disagree with another referee that p values needed to be added to the tables: the confidence intervals convey the same information and I would have used one or the other, with a preference for confidence intervals because of the additional information they convey. The editors may wish to consider whether both are necessary." I've decided to go with the other reviewers suggestion and display the p-values as this conveys more information for the reader.

"The term 'father's mental' in some of the tables would be better replaced with the fuller form used in the earlier table to avoid any confusion". The fuller term is now used consistently in all the tables.

"There was a difference of interpretation in relation to one comment: not all people who self-harm are admitted to hospitals or, indeed, any in-patient setting. This occurs either because the person does not present to services, or because hospital admission is not deemed to be required. It is therefore likely that the study will not have identified all episodes of self-harm. This is not a challenge that can be resolved, but it would be appropriate for the authors to consider stating it more clearly in the text". I've added the following text- As well, some people who attempted suicide may not present to physicians and may not ever acknowledge their attempts to friends and family so that some unknown number of attempted suicides will have been missed in this study.

"There is felt to be no reason why cases and non-cases should migrate at different rates. In the UK, drift of people with mental illness to other areas, and to large urban areas, has been reported in the research literature. The authors seem to feel fairly strongly that there is no possibility of differential migration. I do not agree with this, although the full capture of cases elsewhere in British Columbia reduces this risk. The authors may wish to consider justifying their view more fully in the text". The problem in most studies of type of differential drift for cases and control arises because of loss of follow up. In this case, given that we have a province-wide diagnostic data base, and given that out-migration from BC is very low, this will not be an issue.

Response to REVIEWER #3:

"There are still numerous grammatical errors in the text. Errors include, but are not limited to, the following:
* P15 incorrect verb tense: ‘attenuated’
* P15 word repetition: ‘it is likely that, because of the few clinics in existence, that only’
* P16 punctuation: ‘with the, now well’; p16 ‘to control, in analysis at least partially, for the impact’
* P16 use of which when that is appropriate: ‘this investigation builds upon an older literature which’" All these and other grammatical and spelling errors have been fixed.

"Though the authors have addressed the age of fathers in 1985, and thus only a partial control for fathers' history of suicide and mental health, the incorrect age has been reported (the authors report an average age of 35 years, when according to Hertzman et al, 1997 fathers' would have been on average 50 years of age)" This oversight has been corrected.

"The authors do not discuss the reduced risk for suicide associated with the 'tradesman' occupation among male children. The reported p-value suggests that this is a significant relationship, yet it is not mentioned in the results section nor is it to be found in the discussion." This has now been corrected. It is mentioned ni
results and discussion now.

RESPONSE TO EDITORS SUGGESTIONS: All of the editors suggestions have been addressed in the revised paper.