Author's response to reviews

Title: Contextual socioeconomic determinants of cardiovascular risk factors in rural south-west China: A multilevel analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

To editors of BMC Public Health

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am submitting the revised manuscript “Contextual socioeconomic determinants of cardiovascular risk factors in rural south-west China: A multilevel analysis” (MS: 1713454718116369) to BMC Public Health. I have addressed my responses to the comments in the revised manuscript, and given a point-by-point explanation to the concerns in this cover letter.

Best wishes.

Cai Le

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Reviewer: Anne A Kavanagh

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Delete last sentence of 3rd para of intro. "However, it should…” I do not think discussions of methods for assessing gene-environment interactions should be discussed here. Anyway, fitting an interaction of individual and area-level ethnicity does not mean they are testing for gene-environment interactions.

We have deleted last sentence of 3rd para of intro “However, it should…” per your kind advice.

2. I still think they should indicate before testing which cross-level interactions they think are plausible or ‘sensible’ and argue why. Then fit those interactions only.

We have removed all sentences related to cross-level interactions to avoid confusion: sentence in Statistical analysis section and sentence in Results section.