Reviewer's report

Title: Urban - rural disparities in antenatal care utilization: a study of two cohorts of pregnant women in Vietnam

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Reviewer: Julie E Byles

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper with important policy implications. The manuscript is mostly well written, although some editorial improvements are possible.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper needs some slight expansion of information about the methods of data collection and analysis:

- 1. There needs to be a better explanation of sampling and recruitment. Were all people in all 699 hamlets in Ba Vi and all 3 communes in Doda Lab included in the main study? If not how were households/individuals selected for entry into the surveillance.

- 2. Data on ante-natal care were ascertained by self-report. Is there any information on the accuracy of this report and recall?

- 3. What tests were used to assess statistical significance? This should be explained in the method.

Discretionary Revisions

4. The results are clearly presented and logical. However there is an issue as to whether differences in the two areas are due to region, or to differences in individual characteristics. Might this have been explored more with these data?

Minor Essential Revisions

5. Abstract: results section. Correct missing word in sentence – The corresponding percentages for the urban were ....

6. Throughout the manuscript the word data is treated as singular (data was), should this be plural (data were)?

7. Discussion, paragraph 5. Sentence 1.
The late attendance in ANC among the rural women is possibly due to lack of awareness