Reviewer’s report

Title: Child neglect in one-child family from Suzhou City of Mainland China

Version: 7  Date: 14 January 2014

Reviewer: Lil Tonmyr

Reviewer’s report:

To the authors:
Thanks for responding to the majority of my comments. However there are still some few outstanding issues.

When assessing the work, please consider the following points:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes for the most parts, however, it is unclear why the authors hypothesized that there would be higher level of emotional neglect in this analysis.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
As requested earlier please explain method for linking records, was probabilistic matching used?

3. Are the data sound?
Yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The abstract is generally fine. However I would remove “The 4-2-1” or explain it. I don’t know that most readers would understand what it means.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
He manuscript still requires some language editing before publication, e.g.,
Page 3 – lack of validated and culturally appropriate measures…
Page 3 – semi-structured interviews…
Page 5 – those reported in other studies…
Page 6 – open the envelope after it was returned
Page 7 – please remove the Scale of Child Neglect in Urban China, it has already been introduced. The short form would suffice.
Page 8 – Scolded and bit…
Page 8 – Change severer to more severe.
Page 9 – semi-structured…
Page 11 – change supervision to supervisory
Page 12 and 15 – remove s on neglect.
Page 14 education neglect to educational neglect, please review sentence since it’s incomplete.

The reference list also needs attention; the format varies for the various references. Furthermore, as noted in earlier reviews of this manuscript, reference 31 should be updated with a newer reference since it is updated yearly.

Still need direction of neglect correlates (page 4) as it is written now one does not know if the risk increases for boys or girls etc. See also page 13, I assume you mean low parental education, young maternal age etc.

The authors mention that the one child policy is unique initiative globally; however a similar policy exists in Vietnam (Page 4).

Need to change the phrase: We also hoped the unique factors in one child families were associated with child neglect (Page 5).

Please verify translation of electricity in the sentence Teach the child how to protect against fire, electricity and gas.