Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of temporal trends in United States autism prevalence to trends in suspected environmental causes.

Version: 4
Date: 25 June 2014
Reviewer: Sophie St-Hilaire

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Dear Editor,

Dr. Nevison has addressed my concerns adequately. I have added a few comments to the PDF and supplementary document for clarification. Two small points that the author should address are:

1) The conclusion that air pollutants are declining because PM 2.5 is declining doesn’t mean that all air pollutants are declining. This is the impression I had after reading section 4.2. It is possible that by aggregating all air pollutants into PM 2.5 the author was not able to detect an increase in a minor air pollutant (that does not contribute much to PM 2.5 relatively speaking) but that is important in the pathophysiology of autism. I don’t know if this is the case but the author has not ruled it out so I would be more conservative and state air pollution as measured by PM 2.5 instead of referring to air pollutants in general.

2) There are other sources of organophosphate exposure besides food which are not captured in this study (i.e. some pet flea products) so actual exposure to OPs may be increasing. Again, perhaps this can be addressed by using more conservative wording by the author when making conclusions about OP exposure.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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