Author's response to reviews

Title: Primary prevention of lead poisoning in children: A cross sectional study to evaluate state specific lead-based paint risk reduction laws in preventing lead poisoning in children

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Aschengrau,

Thank you very much for your comments. They were extremely helpful as they helped to refine the message of this study. To aid in your review, we’ve sent both a track changes as well as a clean version of the document. We really appreciated your attention to detail and hope that our response adequately satisfies your concerns.

Response to comments from reviewer Ann Aschengrau

Major Compulsory Revisions

Comment 1: Number of significant digits. Two decimal points are sufficient for odds ratios and confidence intervals in the text, tables, and figure. More than that implies a greater degree of precision than is actually present. You may want to round to three decimal points for the p values.

Response 1: All suggestions have been incorporated.

Comment 2: The results in the abstract and on pages 17 and 19 of the text should place greater emphasis on the magnitude of the odds ratio. For example, the abstract should state "The two
states with lead laws, MA and OH were 79% less likely than the one without legislation....."
Also, the text on page 17 should state "Unadjusted estimates showed that the lead-law states were 43% less likely...... After controlling for covariates including......lead-law states were 79% less likely to identify subsequent cases of lead poisoning. Both unadjusted and adjusted results were statistically significant." It's quite impressive that the association became stronger after confounders were taken into account; this fact is lost if you just emphasize statistical significance. You can still give the ORs and 95% CIs in these sections.

Response 2: All suggestions have been incorporated. Thank you for the suggested wording.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With Best Regards,

Chinaro Kennedy

Chinaro Kennedy, DrPH, MPH
Principal Investigator

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