Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A cohort study of the association between secondary sex ratio and parental exposure to polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 19 June 2009

**Reviewer:** Amy Branum

**Reviewer’s report:**

Re-review of MS: 1811404047254866

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The Authors have made many changes to the original manuscript and the paper is much clearer as a result. The Authors should be commended for this. All Major Compulsory Revisions were addressed appropriately. A few minor suggestions follow.

- **Discretionary Revisions**

1. p. 7 Methods – first paragraph under Study Population. The information that is given in the last three sentences (starting with “Females who were adults…”) seems unnecessary and adds extraneous detail that is somewhat confusing. Would suggest deleting these last three sentences.

2. p. 7 Methods – first paragraph under Study Population. The sentence about excluding births before 1975 because offspring could have directly ingested contaminated food products is puzzling. Why would this have any bearing on offspring sex, assuming the Author meant that they may have eaten the contaminated food after they were born? It seems to make more sense to exclude them because their parental exposures of PBB may not have been as great since the contamination occurred in 1973-1974.

3. p. 7 – second paragraph. The Authors refer to “first-generation female cohort members”. This seems like a wordy way of saying “mothers”. May want to consider just referring to this group throughout the paper as “mothers” for sake of simplicity.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.