Author's response to reviews

Title: A systematic review of the incidence of schizophrenia: the distribution of rates and the influence of sex, urbanicity, migrant status and methodology.

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The paper has been adjusted slightly to accommodate the suggestions of the reviewer and to meet editorial requirements of the journal.

1. We agree with the concerns of the reviewer about the weight that can be placed on the inferential analyses. We have already drawn the readers' attention to this point. We note, however, that past narrative reviewers have never been shy of drawing inferences without the aid of systematic study ascertainment or explicit methods.

2. The text related to the sex ratio has been deleted as suggested.

3. A comment about the impact of age adjustment as been added to the discussion, and the reference to Yolles and Kramer included.

4. The word 'proportion' has been added as suggested.

With respect to formatting, we have followed, as best we can, the requirements. In particular, the large tables are now bundled with the Additional files.