Author’s response to reviews

Title: Screening high-risk clusters for developing birth defects in mothers in Shanxi Province, China: application of latent class cluster analysis

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Responses of the revision

RE: PRCH-D-15-00180R2 Screening high-risk clusters for developing birth defects in mothers in Shanxi Province, China: application of latent class cluster analysis.

Dear Editor,

We are really grateful to your comments and thoughtful suggestions. We revised our paper according to the comments. All changes made to the text are marked in the track changes mode and in red font in the paper. We hope the revised manuscript is acceptable for publication in the journal. Below you will find our point-to-point responses to Reviewer reports:
Major Compulsory Revisions:

(1) It is not entirely clear from your manuscript whether the ethical approval mentioned refers to your study or the original survey. Please confirm whether your study was submitted to and approved by an IRB. If not, please clearly state who granted you permission to access and use the survey data.

Response: Thank you for your valuable comments. We confirm that both the original survey and the study were submitted to and approved by an IRB committee from the Human Research Ethics Committee of Shanxi PFPC. We have modified the corresponding sentence in “Methods, Study design and participants” section to reflect this.

(2) Please upload all figures and tables as figure or table files, respectively. Figure and table legends should, however, be placed at the end of the main manuscript and not within the figure or table file.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We have separated the figures and tables from the main context and uploaded them as separate files named as Figures.docx and Tables.docx. The figure legend was rendered at the end of the main manuscript.