Reviewer's report

Title: Secular trends in age at menarche among Chinese women born from 1955 to 1985

Version: 2 Date: 29 September 2014

Reviewer: jie wu

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The authors investigated the overall trend in age at menarche and assessed differences in the rate of age at menarche change, including urban and rural populations of southeast China (within the two southeast provinces) in this manuscript. The results showed that the age at menarche declined by with the fastest decline in women born in 1966-1975. For the earliest birth cohorts 1955-1965, the age at menarche declined faster in urban vs. rural areas, and a faster age at menarche decline was suggested for women with high school education or above vs. primary school or less. As many reports involving this topic with similar results have been published recently, and the design of this work is very simple, so this manuscript will be very limited contribution to the field. Therefore, I suggest this manuscript should be rejected for publication in BMC Women's Health. In addition, some problems in the manuscript are summarized as follows:

1) The title and abstract should be revised, because the women included in the study born in southeast China (within the two southeast provinces).

2) “Menarche age” should be included in the keywords.

3) Please include a statement about institutional ethics committee in Methods section and informed consent forms should be provided.

4) To update the references is necessary, because many studies involved the topic have been published in recent years.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.