Author’s response to reviews

Title: Applying Methods of the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study to Developmental Neurotoxicants: A Commentary

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Responses to Reviewers

Reviewer 1

I have only minor editorial comments. page 3, line 59: Delete "such." page 9, line 191: Insert "to" before "them" page 10, line 201: Change "n" to "an" page 10, lines 216-221: Sentence is over 75 words long. Needs to be broken into 2 or 3 sentences.

Response: all recommendations implemented.

Reviewer 2

Please make sure that the title page is correctly formatted.

Response: I think it is now correctly formatted.

Line 69-71: please refer to the GBD 2015 report here.

Response: done

The Commentary is written from a US perspective, but the GBD calculations are meant to be global. This needs to be mentioned. Differences between low- and high-income countries were described by Hanushek EA, Woessmann L. The role of cognitive skills in economic development. J Econ Lit. 2008;46:607-68).
Response: Lines 140-145 now emphasize how GBD calculations for neurotoxicants might differ between low and high income countries.

Another issue is sex-specific differences. They were discussed by Salkever DS. Updated estimates of earnings benefits from reduced exposure of children to environmental lead. Environ Res 1995; 70(1): 1-6. A more recent paper by the same author may be preferable, as it also discusses uncertainties in calculating IQ economic values: Salkever DS. Assessing the IQ-earnings link in environmental lead impacts on children: have hazard effects been overstated? Environ Res. 2014;131:219-30.

Response: Lines 145-148 mention the possibility that the effects of some chemicals might be sex-specific.

A Commentary would normally include up to 10 references. Although that limit is not firm, the idea is that the Commentary should be specific and to the point. Please select the most important references, taking into consideration the above suggestions.

Response: The number of references has been reduced to 13.