Reviewer’s report

Title: Health status in a transitional society: urban-rural comparisons from a dynamic perspective in China

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Qiang Sun

Reviewer’s report:

Please find the comments below:

1. Introduction could be more concise.

2. Some faults exit, please proofread the manuscript, such as,

   Line 15 page 8, SRH should be spelt out when first used in the main text

   Line 54 page 11, countries or counties?

3. Method section:

   Line 54 page 11, I recommend to describe the 125 countries /districts, including how many province they were sampled from, the socio-economic information, etc.

   Line 25 page 13, how did you score SRH, clarify.

   What software was used to analyze your data?

4. It' important to overview the general information of participants in urban and rural areas in each cross-sectional survey (including number of participants, male%, age groups...). Please list them in a table.

5. It's surprise to see the remarkable decline in 2011. The explanation of Fukushima nuclear disaster for this finding is a little farfetched. Could that due to investigator bias or selection bias? Again, please list the general information of participants of all surveys (2005-2013)

6. Figure 2a, the title is uncompleted.

   For figure 1c and 4, I suppose most of the participants with older age were included in the early surveys, while the younger ones were included in the later surveys. If so, the disparity was more likely impacted by policies issued at the point of the surveys.

7. Line 51 page 20, what exactly was the difference between urban and rural regarding social insurance? Please clarify.
8. Line 23 page 22, please describe the health system reform in 2009.

9. The conclusion should be concluded based on your main findings and combined with the current health policies, rather than giving general suggestions.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments
which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal