

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Serum levels of organochlorines in Swedish pregnant women are influenced by high exposures during childhood and adolescence: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 19 September 2006

**Reviewer:** Birger Heinzow

### Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

the term breast feeding during infancy is somewhat peculiar, meant ist: brest fed during infancy

page 17 line 4 may have or use present time.. influence

Please add to ythe data in table 2 the 95. Percentile values, to provide only the MEAN is of limited value; MOST REASDERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE DISTRIBUTION; AT MINIMUM EXPRESSED BY THE 95. PERCENTILE !

One of the most interesting observation are the results for PCB 28 and 52, the upper values are extremely high ( i.e ~ 600 ng/g lipid, maximum) and indicate massive exposure, which I doubt.

Is it possible that analytical reasons are behind this unexplained result?

Exposure via air is most unlikely to cause such a high body burden! If correct actually the present air contamination must in a range of : 1 - 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, assuming a half-life of 200 days for the congener !!

Please comment or provide discussion on plausability of these levels

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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