

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Preliminary Spatiotemporal Analysis of the Association between Socio-environmental Factors and Suicide

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over

17 August 2009

Prof. Philippe Grandjean  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Environmental Health*

Dear Prof. Grandjean,

**Re: “Preliminary Spatiotemporal Analysis of the Association between Socio-environmental Factors and Suicide” (MS: 7012192732830747)**

Thank you very much for your letter of 16 July 2009 and the attached reviews’ comments. We have revised our manuscript according to the two reviewers’ suggestions/ comments, with some changes illustrated below:

**In response to Reviewer 1**

1. Some general information about Queensland has been added in the first paragraph of page 4.
2. The description about the age structure of the study population and suicide cases by gender has been added in the third paragraph of page 8.
3. We have deleted the reference to climate change (pages 2 and 17).
4. We have developed a connection between the 1st two sentences in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, p4, as this reviewer suggested.
5. We have deleted the time range of the project (the last sentence of the 3rd paragraph, p4).

6. We have explained what a grid means in the last paragraph of page 5.
7. We have revised the 2nd paragraph in Data Analyses, p7.
8. Male and female suicides have been compared in the univariable analysis in the revision (pages 8-10).
9. PPLII and PPLEL have been introduced in the last paragraph of page 6.
10. The sentence before Table 6 (now Table 3) has been revised as ... “not significantly associated with suicide in females”.
11. A map of the major regions in Queensland (Figure 1) is added so that the description of areas would be easy to understand.
12. Some references are inserted for the comparison with other studies (the third paragraph of page 12).
13. The discussion about environmental equity/justice has been added in the second paragraph of page 13.
14. Some work on suicide in Indigenous communities of Canada has been cited to strengthen the discussion on the relation between harsh environmental and social conditions and suicide (the second paragraph of page 13).

15. Some references are inserted in the second paragraph of page 14.

16. The description of the abbreviations is provided under each table.

### **In response to Reviewer 2**

1. We agree with Dr. Ebi's comment and have deleted the reference to climate change (pages 2 and 17).

2. We have defined LGA in the third paragraph of page 5.

3. We have listed all non-normally distributed data in pages 7, 8 and 9.

4. We have deleted some tables and figures which showed similar results and discussed the similarities/differences for the other analyses.

5. We agree that this study included only monthly weather data and covered 5 years, and could not support or deny the impact of drought. We have added some reference for the statement that farmers have less social support (third paragraph of page 12).

6. We have revised the third paragraph (discussion on the association between rainfall and suicide), P 12 and added more references.

We have all read and approved the contents of the revision, and have no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript.

We look forward to your decision.

Yours sincerely,

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