

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 90297

Title: Climate change, ambient air pollution, and students' mental health

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00608223

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BM BCh, MD, MRCP, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Reader (Associate Professor)

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-11-29

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-14 08:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-21 13:16

Review time: 7 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The general concept of this editorial is good, but the article feels a bit unbalanced, and fails to address confounders. The abstract, and to a lesser extent the manuscript, contains sweeping statements eg 'The combined effects of climate change and air pollution have led to the complexity of mental health problems'. Whilst I can agree that during the period in which these environmental issues have arisen globally there has been an epidemiological rise in mental health issues, there are a multitude of contributing factors both social and medical (eg rising awareness leading to more diagnoses, more treatment available hence more reason to make a formal diagnosis). More nuanced argument would strengthen the paper, and need not override the opinion the piece wishes to make that climate and pollution are important factors. At times there is an over-reliance on review articles in the citations - for example references 9 and 10 are cited to support statements about climate and rising diagnoses, but are other reviews/opinion pieces. It would be better to cite original research making these findings. I would also appreciate some context as to the clinical relevance of some statements - for example reference 16 talks about risks associated with a 10 degree rise in temperature - are the authors



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implying that there has (or will be) rises of this magnitude due to climate change? Or is this just reflective of changes in season? The latter may come with other factors influencing mental health, such as light exposure, as well as other social factors of potential relevance. Reference 17 is cited to refer to hormonal changes in the context of temperature, but is about foundry workers, where temperatures are presumably much more than in the day to day outdoor environment. Is the finding relevant to the degrees we see with climate change? Addition of a section (or just balancing sentences) about confounders, together with one or two figures to illustrate points would be helpful. A figure would be particularly useful where talking about pollution impacts on mental health, to illustrate pathogenesis.