Reviewer's report

Title: The influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in Reunion Island: knowledge, perceived risk and precautionary behaviour

Version: 5 Date: 4 July 2012

Reviewer: Marloes Buls

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

RESULTS

description of results are not in consecutive order with table/figures. Furthermore, 1) percentages are described but are not included in table; 2) differences in social demographic variables are described but not included in table. Make clear which data can be found in table and if data are not shown in table mention for example (data not shown) between brackets. Suggestion is to first mention the mean scores, those are given in the table. Then describe percentages and differences in social demographic variables and mention (data are not shown). For all alineas in result section. See also example described at minor revisions.

result description of univariate analyse unclear. 1) higher perceived vulnerability is not included in table 3?; 2) higher response efficacy and higher number of preventive measures regarded as effective is the same, isn't it? what is the difference?

DISCUSSION

in general: still more structuring is needed, to keep readers interest, sometimes difficult to read. Now results, conclusions, recommendations are mixed. Suggestion for improvement is to 1) mention per determinant most important results of the study in 1 sentence; 2) discuss/explain this result. End the discussion section with limitations & strenghts. Move all conclusions and recommendations to conclusion section.

much repeating of results which are not discussed. Suggestion is to remove the results which are not discussed/explained.

For example, 8th alinea: delete sentence 1 and 2 and start alinea with "The vast majority of respondents said.." Delete sentence "transmission through contact is generally.." and "Knowledge of modes of transmission.." To much repeating of results which are not discussed, so can be deleted

7th alinea: "Even after fine-tuning our analysis", please explain

ALINEA about PMT and HBM; als include perceived efficacy

CONCLUSION
In general: first describe main conclusion as a result of this study; than formulate a couple of recommendations. Only describe conclusions which are a result of this study.

1st alinea are not conclusions as a result of this study!

2e alinea: "Our findings suggest that people adapt to changes in comm.." changes over time? This study is a crosssectional study and can not identify changes over time.

Minor essential revisions

BACKGROUND

The background has more structure now, some minor revisions:

-1st sentence "At the end of April of 2009" should be "At the end of April 2009".
-Delete last sentence 1st alinea "The H1N1 virus pandemic was expected.."

3th and 4th alinea should be integrated in 1 alinea: first start with the 4th alinea "Compliance with preventive measures...to among the general public (18-20)." Than past 3th alinea and start with the sentence "Compliance with preventive measures.."

4th alinea, 2nd sentence delete "of a range" so "Precautionary behaviour results from a combination of social and psychological factors"

METHODS

- Include one sentence about powercalculation. For example, "the sample size was calculated based on estimation's of 30% taking precautionary behaviour, 1% absolute precision and 5% p-value, resulting in an estimated sample size of 474 adults.

- The questionairre items are now more fully described, but I still recommend to add the survey used (incl. all questionairs and answers) in an appendix/additional file. Than the questionaire section could be shortened. For example, it is now not clear how knowledge items were formulated.

RESULTS

-alinea describing results of table 1: first describe percentages included in table 1. Start with 1st sentence "Over one third..", than "Two thirds declared that they had seasonal influenza.." and end with sentence "In the entire sample, one quarter .." Than mention the socio demogr differences. "The youngest respondents.."; "The proportion of individuals.."; "Fewer elderly.." etc and mention (data not shown).

-Now data of table 2 are described, than figure 1 and than again table 2. Describe results in consecutive order conform numered tables, so first table 1, table 2, table 3 etc. Effectiveness of preventive measures should be described above figure 1, after knowledge.

-KNOWLEDGE ALINEA: delete sentence "Main symptoms identified .."

- Delete sentence "Precautions taken scored 0.6 (SD..)" No added value, all
relevant data are included in figure 2

-PRECAUTIONS TAKEN: "isolation measures, was not widespread" is it more
avoidance behavior i.e. social distancing? Than replace isolation measures into
avoidence behavior

-ALINEA UNIV/MULT RESULTS: mention OR/p-values in accordance with
guidelines of BMC public health.

-results describing table 3-4: mention factors in order as included in table

DISCUSSION

- alinea 1+2 can be merged
- alinea 3+4 can be merged
- alinea 4 is to long and unclear; regarding social desirability of younger
respondents.
-mention at limitation alinea, 2e sentence, "This brings into doubts if data are
generalizable for the population of RI"
- alinea about recall bias is unclear

-End discussion with strengts and limitation. I.e. our study has a number of
limitations; first,,, second,,,

TABLE 2

-question regarding effectiveness of preventive measures, is that a knowledge
question or perceived efficacy?

-use only 1 decimal., so 2.4 in stead of 2.35, also in text

-delete 2.3 (I deleted text in resulted section), no added value

TABLE 3

-change p-values <0.005 in "ns"

-3.3 & 3.4 mention n as also done for the other determinants

TABLE 4

-"score about the number of preventive measures", the scores/scales are missing
here

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests