Reviewers report

Title: Risk factors for Contracting Watery Diarrhoea in Kadoma City, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe, 2011

Version: 5 Date: 6 September 2013

Reviewer: marzia lazzerini

Reviewers report:

The paper is of value, but still need some work on editing and style.

TITLE
1. Add in the title that this is case control study

ABSTRACT
2. Background- last sentence - add that this is case control study
3. Results- Add a full point before “Hand washing in a single bowl
4. Results- The municipal water tested resulted not contaminated with E.coli, 23(52%) of shallow wells and 3(20%) boreholes tested were positive for
5. E.coli.- please add denominator

BACKGROUND
6. In 2011, Kadoma City experienced an upsurge of watery diarrhoeal cases during week 36, in 2011. The total cases reported by the city’s five clinics doubled from 27 to 53 cases between week 35 and 36. The cases further doubled from 55 to 107 between week 37 and week 38. The weekly watery diarrhoeal cases at the under 5 clinic crossed the action threshold line during week 36. The diarrhoeal cases at the under 5 clinic increased 7 fold, from 7 to 50 cases, between weeks 35 and 38.- Please do reference figure 1

RESULTS
7. All 33 municipal water samples were satisfactory”: do you mean that they were below the threshold for contamination? I suggest to write this explicitly. Substitute “satisfactory” with some more explicit word.
8.

DISCUSSION
9. I suggest to modify the sequence of paragraph. Start by discussing the epidemic, than move to the risk factors (i.e. move the first paragraph after what is now the 4th paragraph)
10. Add a comment on whether type of germs suggest faecal contamination or
not. Add reference as needed.

11. “A systematic review of several studies, estimated that appropriate hand washing with soap, could reduce the risks of severe intestinal infections and of shigellosis by up to 48% and 59%, respectively. [10]”- Add a full point before this sentence

12. “Some of the limitation for this study include”- delete “Some”

CONCLUSIONS

13. Delete all the sentences that repeat results. In conclusion you should give bottom-line message, not repeat results.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIONS TAKEN

13. “Health education on importance of practicing good personal hygiene, boiling and treating water with water purification tablets before drinking and long term benefits of exclusive breast feeding should continue. All municipal clinics now have weekly updated diarrhoea thresholds” : Why “weekly updated diarrhoea thresholds” Do you mean weekly updated reports?

14. “In view of the protective effects of municipal water, the installation of Dedicated electricity power lines was expedited by the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority”: make more explicit why electricity is important (I guess to pump the water)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

None