Author's response to reviews

Title: Depression, Suicidal Ideation, and Associated Risk Factors: A Cross-Sectional Study in Rural Haiti

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Psychiatry Editorial Board:

We are submitting a revision of the manuscript entitled “Depression, Suicidal Ideation, and Associated Factors: A Cross-Sectional Study in Rural Haiti.” We have made the following changes to the manuscript:

1. The IRB ethical approval and consent process was described.
2. We stated that we had no conflicts of interest.
3. The methods section was moved to the appropriate position, and we added a ‘methods’ heading in the abstract.

As stated in our original submission, we believe that this manuscript will be of interest to BMC Psychiatry readers for multiple reasons:

• First, since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, there has been significant interest in the mental health of Haitians. To our knowledge, there has not yet been an epidemiological study in Haiti since the earthquake that has used culturally validated tools. We have selected BMC Psychiatry to submit this article because of the timely nature in which this study could be published on this timely topic. To our knowledge, this study—if accepted—also would be the first BMC Psychiatry publication about Haiti.

• Second, BMC Psychiatry has published a number of studies on suicide. Therefore, we feel your readers would be interested to learn about the prevalence of suicidal ideation in rural Haiti. To date, there have been no studies on suicidal behavior in Haiti, and very few studies from the Caribbean in general. Therefore, this study would provide a novel contribution to the field of suicide research.

This is an article that was conducted in a low-income country. The senior author on the study is based in a low-income setting. The funder did not provide resources for publication fees. In addition, the authors are not supported by institutions to cover the cost of publication. The authors are all in graduate or post-graduate training, or they are employees of nongovernmental humanitarian organizations in a low-income country. Therefore, we would like to request a fee waiver for this submission.

This article is not under review with any other journals. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Thank you for considering this manuscript for review.

Sincerely,

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