Author's response to reviews

Title: Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia

Authors:

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Version: 3 Date: 23 May 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Date: May 23, 2011

Editor

BMC Public Health

Dear Editor,

Revision of Manuscript ID 1765691205484917, revised title “Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia.”

Enclosed the revision of the manuscript. We have addressed each of the reviewers’ comments and explained the revision below. In some cases, we have responded to their comments without inclusion in the manuscript. Please contact us if any further clarification is required.

Thank you for the editorial revision, the manuscript indeed has been much improved.

Look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer's report
Title: Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia
Version: 2 Date: 2 May 2011
Reviewer: Dan Romer
Reviewer's report:
I only have minor essential revisions. Although the author has removed the term "predict" from descriptions of the associations with racing, the term is still present in the abstract. I would suggest saying "were associated" with racing frequency.

Removed “predictive” and replaced with “were associated with”

The first sentence of the paper says that street racing has "devastating" social and economic impact. Unless this can be supported with a newspaper or other report, I would suggest that this is a bit of an overstatement. Describing the impact as "significant" will get the point across.

Removed “devastating”

It also says in the first paragraph that there has been a "recent increase in motorcycle street racing". Again, unless this can be supported by either a newspaper or other report, I would be inclined to remove this.

Removed the sentence.

On page 10, top paragraph, it says that "Health risk behavior scores were significantly higher in married participants....and strict parents (p < .001)." Is this correct? Sounds wrong.

Revised
Health protective behaviour scores were significantly higher in married participants (4.67 married vs. 4.07 never married, p < 0.05), those with higher education attainment (4.23 secondary vs. 3.73 primary, p < 0.001), high family household income (3.97 <RM1000 vs. 4.44 RM2001-3000, p < 0.01), high maternal (4.26 tertiary vs. 3.79 primary, p < 0.001) and paternal (4.39 tertiary vs. 3.87 primary, p < 0.001) education attainment, and strict parents (4.33 both parents strict vs. 3.99 at least one parent strict, p < 0.01).

In Table 1, what is "bumiputra" in relation to Malay?
Bumiputera means in Malay “sons of the soil”. It refers to Malays (Malay bumiputra) and other indigenous people (non-Malay bumiputra). Non-Malays bumiputra are the original inhabitants, they are the proper natives of Malaysia and are the aboriginal tribes.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
Published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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

Reviewer’s report
Title: Socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics of illegal motorcycle street racers in Malaysia
Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2011
Reviewer: Nerida L Leal

Reviewer’s report:
Discretionary Revisions:
Results, paragraph 6: The Spearman correlations are very small, which may suggest a Type I error has occurred due to your large sample size. Author should consider noting this in the description e.g. by including effect size.

Added in Discussion, para 4
Masculinity is defined as embracing risk behaviours and opposing positive health behaviours [20], which was supported in this study by a significant inverse correlation between masculinity and health protective behaviour scores. Nevertheless, it should be noted with caution that a Type I error may occur owing to the small but statistically significant correlation coefficient of the association, which may be due to large sample size effect.

Minor essential revisions (all typographical / language errors) - grouped by section and paragraph, and listed in order:
1. Abstract, Methods: delete "in" prior to "from June".

Deleted “in”

2. Introduction, paragraph 1: "and caused unnecessary" should be "and causes unnecessary"; "motorcycles were modified" should be "motorcycles are modified".

Changed “causes” and “are”

3. Introduction, paragraph 2: "Study on car racing showed" should be "Studies investigating car racing have shown”. Vaaranen and Vaaranen (http://ann.sagepub.com/content/595/1/91.short) & Weiloch (http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/staff/hvaarane/kortteliralli.pdf) would be useful additional references here.

Corrected “Studies investigating car racing have shown”
Added paper by Vaaranen and Vaaranen & Weiloch as reference [9] and [10]

4. Introduction, paragraph 3: "Given these findings, studies" could be "However, studies".
Replaced “Given these findings, studies” with “However, studies”

5. Introduction, paragraph 4: "traditional masculine beliefs reported less likely to practice health protective" should be "traditional masculine beliefs are less likely to report practicing health protective"; "Causal link between" should be "A causal link between"; second to last sentence could have the Vaaranen references added; missing period at end of paragraph.

Corrected “men with traditional masculine beliefs are less likely to report practicing health protective behaviours”; “A causal link between”;

Added the Vaaranen references
Additionally, our recent qualitative investigation on a subsample of illegal motorcycle street racers [23] as well as other studies [9,10] also revealed that respect- and honor-seeking for being brave were among the identified characteristics of masculine identity associated with street racing.

6. Methods, paragraph 1: "surrounding the behaviour investigated" should be "surrounding the behaviour being investigated" or "surrounding the behaviour under investigation"; "motorcycle racer, all the interviews" should be "motorcycle racers, all of the interviews"; "motorcycle racer, aimed to facilitate" should be "motorcycle racers, in an attempt to facilitate".

Replaced with “surrounding the behaviour under investigation”; added "s" to "motorcycle racers"; replaced to “motorcycle racers, in an attempt to facilitate”

7. Methods, paragraph 2: "The second section consisted of 5-item question designed" should be "The second section consisted of 5 questions designed"; "a total of 7 items which contribute to the masculinity scale (strong personality" should be "a total of 7 items (strong personality".

Replaced “5 questions designed”; removed “which contribute to the masculinity scale”.

8. Methods, Analyses paragraph: "All significant variables (p < .05) associated to frequency of racing" should be "All significant variables (p < .05) associated with frequency of racing".

Replaced “to” with “with”.

9. Results, paragraph 1: "six months study period" should be "sox month study period"; "sensitivity of the study issue. Most of the" could be "sensitivity of the study issue, as most of the"; “paid employment have personal monthly income less than” should be "paid employment reported a personal monthly income of less than".

Removed “s” in months; corrected “sensitivity of the study issue, as most of the non-respondents...”; corrected “with paid employment reported a personal monthly income less than.....”;
10. Results, paragraph 4: "The mean of health protective behaviour score was 4.10" should be "The mean health protective behaviour score was 4.10".

Removed “of”.

11. Results, paragraph 5: "The mean of health risk behaviour score was 2.10" should be "The mean health risk behaviour score was 2.10"; "and mode was 2" should be "and the mode was 2".

Removed “of”, added “the”.

12. Results, paragraph 6: "of 4.0. (ranged from 0 to 21)" should be "of 4.0. Possible scores ranged from 0 to 21.";

Removed “(ranged from 0 to 21).” Added “Possible scores ranged from 0 to 21.”

"The score for masculinity scale was negatively skewed" should be "The distribution of masculinity scale scores was negatively skewed";

Added "The distribution of masculinity scale scores was negatively skewed".

"The mean score differ significantly by ethnicity and marital status" should be "The mean score differed significantly by ethnicity and marital status";

Corrected “differed”.

"The Malay participants has highest masculinity score (15.9)" should be "The Malay participants had the highest mean masculinity score (15.9)";

Corrected “had”

"Chinese (12.9) (p < .001)" should be "Chinese (12.9) participants (p < .001)";

Added “participants”

"not married had higher mean" should be "not married had a higher mean";

Added “a”

"No statistically significant difference was observed for age" should be "No statistically significant differences were observed for age”;

Corrected “No statistically significant differences were observed for age”

"and other variables in family characteristics" should be "or other family characteristic variables”;

Corrected “or other family characteristic variables”

"Spearman rank order correlation" should be "Spearman rank order correlations”.

Added “s”
13. Results, paragraph 7: for first chi-square, add "predictors" after "were statistically significant", and put a space after "df =" so there is a space between = and 23;

Added “predictors”, added the space.

all instances of "odds for racing frequency" should be "odds of racing";

Replaced “of”.

"Participants with neither and at least one" should be "Participants with neither or at least one"; "who are strict were more likely to have higher" should be "who are strict had higher".

Replaced “or” and "who are strict had higher".

14. Results, paragraph 8: "were more likely to involve in racing along with performing stunts while riding" should be "were more likely to perform stunt riding while racing".

Replaced with “were more likely to perform stunt riding while racing".

15. Discussion, paragraph 1: "Study found a variety of delinquent behaviours exists concomitantly" should be "This study found that a variety of delinquent behaviours exist concomitantly".

Corrected "This study found that a variety of delinquent behaviours exist concomitantly".

16. Discussion, paragraph 2: consider using "ethnically diverse" or "multi-cultural" instead of "mutli-ethnic".

Replaced with “ethnically diverse”

17. Discussion, paragraph 4: "this study confirm earlier studies" should be "this study are consistent with those of earlier studies".

Replaced ""this study are consistent with those of earlier studies".

18. Discussion, paragraph 5: "First limitation of the study includes the use of snowball" should be "The first limitation of the study was the use of the snowball"; "Given the sensitivity" should be "However, given the sensitivity"; "its ethical and practical considerations limit" should be "ethical and practical considerations limited".

Corrected "The first limitation of the study was the use of the snowball"; added "However"; removed “its” and corrected “limited”

19. Conclusion: "with a variety of factors, including participant" should be "with a
variety of participant"; "should enlighten the negative" should be "should highlight the negative"; "address simultaneously" should be "simultaneously address"; "inter-related risk behaviour" should be "inter-related risk behaviours" or "inter-related risky behaviour"; "Findings can inform future program providers for adolescents and young adults and may be" should be "The findings of this study can inform the development of future programs aimed at adolescents and young adults, and may be".

Removed “factors, including”; replaced “enlighten” with “highlight”; “simultaneously address”; “inter-related risky behaviour”

Corrected “The findings of this study can inform the development of future programs aimed at adolescents and young adults, and may be particularly useful in developing interventions to eradicate illegal motorcycle street racing.”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests