Reviewer’s report

Title: Experience of sexual coercion and risky sexual behavior among Ugandan university students

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Reviewer: Ademola Ajuwon

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Experience of sexual coercion and risky sexual behaviour among Ugandan university students
Reviewer: Ademola Ajuwon, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Minor Essential revisions

The research from which this manuscript was derived was well conceived and implemented. The analysis of the data is appropriate and comprehensive. The manuscript is generally well written; the variables assessed in the study were well described and presented. However, there are a few issues the authors need to address before the paper can be recommended for publication in BMC Public Health.

1. The abstract should reflect the fact that the 980 respondents (80%) who participated in the study were from a total of 1,220 Ugandan students enrolled in MUST in 2005.

2. The introduction should include a brief description of the nature of sexual coercion because there is variability in its definition from one setting to the other. It will be useful to know how the authors have conceived of sexual coercion in this study. In describing the prevalence of sexual coercion, the authors cited references 8-12; however, this information will be more useful if the authors provide the context from which these findings were published.

3. The authors have provided a fairly good description of MUST, the setting where the study was conducted. However, there is need to clarify if this university also has post-graduate students at the time the survey was conducted. The HIV prevalence data of 24% for Mbarara district should be related to the national prevalence in Uganda.

4. The method through which students were recruited into the study is not clear; the authors said that questionnaire was distributed in lecture halls to all the undergraduate students at MUST. The question is whether all the students were assembled in the hall for the purpose of completing the questionnaire or this was done for different students at different times? Please clarify

5. Another limitation of the study which must be pointed out is the fact that the data presented in this paper do not necessarily represent the situation of sexual coercion and sexual behaviour among the entire under-graduate students population in Uganda.
6. Many of the Tables have very long titles; I suggest the titles of the Tables 2-5 be shortened to make them more concise.

7. I suggest that the data on Table 1 be segregated by sex since sexual coercion and sexual behaviour are influenced by gender issues. The statement ‘I only analyzed among those who drank alcohol’ at the bottom of the Table is not clear and should be deleted. What does ‘ABC’ factor stated as part of title of Table 1 mean? Table 1 should also be re-structured to be fit into a page.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'