Author's response to reviews

Title: Study on behavioral characteristics of MSM who are more inclined to try high-risk sexual behaviors--A data survey based upon nine large- and medium-sized cities in China

Authors:

yang li (kacacpc@163.com)  
Zengzhao Yu (657967823@qq.com)  
Beichuan Zhang (pytx@263.net)  
Xiufang Li (lxfgd@126.com)  
Guanzhi Chen (chen_quanzhi@yahoo.com.cn)  
Lixin Wang (69793226@qq.com)

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2011

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Dear Reviewer:

Thanks for your attention to the paper "Study on behavioral characteristics of MSM who are more inclined to try high-risk sexual behaviors—A data survey made upon nine large and medium-sized cities in China". Please allow me to introduce something about my paper.

1. Data source——A data survey made upon nine large and medium-sized cities in China during 2006 to 2008----Supported by the 10th five years programs for science and technology development of China(2004BA719A02). The number of samples used for the study is large, totally including 2,250 cases.

2. By the way of reviewing, respondents filled in the part of self-reported risk behaviors in the questionnaire: 1. I have hunted for strange or unfamiliar male in the gay place and had sexual intercourse with him in the last 6 months; 2. In the recent year, I have had sexual intercourse with many people (at least three people) simultaneously; 3. I once "bought" sex. The respondent with the answer of "yes" to all above questions was listed into the group studied (group A). At the same time, respondents without such behavior mentioned in the above three questions were listed into the comparison group(group B).By comparing the two groups in terms of mental and behavioral characteristics, we found a lot of differences, e.g. the experience of suffering the sexual abuse from adult male before the age of 16 is the first important risk factor causing the occurrence of three kinds of high-risk sexual behaviors.

3. The study finds that great difference in terms of mentality and individual behavior pattern exists between those more willing to try high-risk sex behaviors
and those without such behavior, which may be one of reasons that cause unobvious effect of intervention measures.

4. The results of this study will provide important theoretical basis for adopting more effective intervention strategies aiming at MSM group in future.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Li yang

E-mail#kacacpc@163.com