Author's response to reviews

Title: The oral health of heroin drug users: case study in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

Thank you for reviewing and suggestions for improving my manuscript. Your question about RDS is limitation of this study and it is listed in limitations.

Best regards,

Dr Zorica Terzic Supic
Answers to Reviewer Albert Reece,

Thank you for reviewing my manuscript and recognition of importance of this work.

Best regards,

Dr Zorica Terzic Supic
Answers to Reviewer David Otiashvili

Mr. Otiashvili,

Thank you for reviewing and suggestions for improving my manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Criteria on which oral health was coded as “good” or “bad” are described in the part Variables – Method section.
2. Regularly brush their teeth, and did not go for regular dental checkups are defined in part Variables – Method section.
3. Table 1, definition of “regularly” is described in part Variables – Method section.

Minor Essential Revisions:
4. Abstract, last sentence of Conclusions – Considering your suggestion last sentence is changed by adding treatments and harm reduction programmes.
5. Introduction, last sentence of paragraph 1 - Few specific examples of negative effects are provided.
6. Introduction, last sentence of paragraph 2 – Last sentence of paragraph 1 clarifies the last sentence of paragraph 2. Last sentence of paragraph 2 is deleted.
7. Design and selection of the IDU sample, first sentence – Reference #16 is removed.
8. Design and selection of the IDU sample, sentence of paragraph 2 – The word “include” is replaced with word “recruit”.
9. Design and selection of the IDU sample and Procedures – Method of selection of RDS seeds is described in new paragraph 2. Reference #17 is added to confirm number of waves in research to reduce selection bias. Respondents were not beneficiaries of NGOs’ services. Profile of NGOs is described in part Procedure, paragraph 2, last two sentences. The NGOs were mostly engaged in education, without needle and syringe programs.
10. Procedures, paragraph 1 – The sentence (A pre-test questionnaire was conducted in Banja Luka on a group of 10 IDUs, to determine whether the questions were understood, the form of the questions and their order were adequate and length of the interview) – is reworded.
11. Procedures, last sentence of paragraph 1 – The word “survey” is replaced with word “interview”. Counseling was about blood test procedure which is added in the last sentence.
   For better understanding the procedure, more information are provided in paragraph 3 (the first two sentences) in Design and selection of the IDU sample.

12. Variables, first sentence – Authors provide information on 10 variables that were analyzed. What about “being an NGO beneficiary”? Does that matter?
   Ten variables are common for both researchs.

13. Discussion, last sentence of the second paragraph – The English check of the sentence is done.

14. Discussion, first sentence of paragraph 3 – It is quoted that the statement is based on a research done in another country.

15. Discussion, last sentence of paragraph 3 – It is clarified what does “different” mean here and new reference (#23) is added.

16. Discussion, paragraph 4 – References #23, 24, and 25 are removed.

17. Discussion, paragraph 6, first sentence – Suggested reference Global AIDS response progress report 2012 is used (reference #26).

18. Discussion, paragraph 6, second sentence – The English check of the sentence is done.

   Discretionary Revisions:

19. Discussion, paragraph 4 - Dental health in general population is described and compared to other countries. New reference #24 is added.

20. Discussion, last paragraph – According to socioeconomic situation in the countries in transition, research related to self-reports will be still commonly utilized to collect information on subjects’ behaviors.

21. References - Three new references are added, references #17, 23, 24.

Best regards,
Dr Zorica Terzic Supic