Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of parenting practices on sexual risk-taking among young people in Cameroon

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: Editor of BMC Public Health  
From: Estelle M. Sidze and Barthélemy Kuate Defo

Ref.: Revised version of our paper entitled “Effects of parenting practices on sexual risk-taking among young people in Cameroon”

Dear Editor:

We are writing to submit the revised version of our paper, in response to comments and suggestions from the two reviewers and the editor.

Below, I detailed how we have responded to each reviewers’ comments and suggestions, labeling them 1.A) to 1.H) (for reviewer 1) and 2.A) to 2.G) (for reviewer 2), as in the attachments.

**Reviewer 1: Apolinaras Zaborskis**

1.A). The 1996-1997 survey used for our study contains information which has rarely been available to investigate the effects of parenting practices on sexual behaviors at different ages later in their lifecourse as we have been able to do. Important findings emerging from our study have not been documented to date in sub-Saharan African countries. First, as reviewer 2 stresses (see 2.A) below), “The interface of socialization and subsequent behavior, especially at the adolescent stage has been of interest to researchers, educators and parents. This interest has been further heightened by the outbreak of HIV. The classic expectation is for early parenting practices to influence behavior across developmental stages. This paper contributes to that search among young people in Cameroon ». Second, research is just beginning to document the effects of parental influences on adolescent and reproductive health behaviors and outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa. To the best of my knowledge – after working on issues of adolescent sexuality and reproductive health in Africa for almost 20 years now [e.g., see references 2, 5 and 23 in the manuscript], there is no other study which has addressed the subject matter of our paper in the African context within a life course perspective as we have undertaken. Finally, our findings are robust to alternative specifications of models fitted, and most of these findings have not be uncovered so far in African settings.

1.B). I am on the editorial board of many peer-reviewed journals (e.g., BioMed Research International) and have published in BMC Public Health (e.g., B Kuate Defo [with Z Tsala Dimbuene]. Fostering accurate HIV/AIDS knowledge among unmarried youths in Cameroon: Do family environment and peers matter? BMC Public Health 11:348, 2011). I consider the length of our revised manuscript suitable for publication in most journals of high quality and with high impact factor such as BMC Public Health.

1.C). We apologize for the spelling errors in the earlier version of our paper. I have now reviewed and edited thoroughly the revised version of our manuscript.

1.D). The Background section has been supplemented with the rationale and novelty of the study as well as the aim of the study.
1.E). The sections on Results and Discussion are clearly separated in the revised manuscript.

1.F). In tables 5 and 6, confidence intervals are now presented instead of standard errors of Odds Ratios.

1.G). Correction has been done.


**Reviewer 2: Kofi Awusabo-Asare**

2.A). We agreed with this reviewer that our study contributes to the advancement of knowledge on the impact of parenting practices on behaviors during adolescence and young adulthood. See also 1.A) above.

2.B). The formulation of hypothesis 3 has been amended to clarify that we are considering the impact of early parenting practices on sexual risk-taking during adolescence and young adulthood. Throughout the paper, this clarification has been made.

2.C). The revised manuscript acknowledges that measurement of parenting is constructed from self-evaluated concepts (see the Limitation section) and we have been careful when drawing conclusions from the results.

2.D). In the revised manuscript, we have been careful in drawing conclusions when comparing some of our results with findings from other studies.

2.E). We have proposed some explanations for our findings. For all useful purposes in our study, we have used adequate sample sizes with appropriate statistical techniques, given the well-known fact that different techniques have different requirements including rules-of-thumb regarding sample sizes; for the statistical techniques used in our paper, we have ensured that we have met the appropriate criterion. It should be obvious that even with large samples, care should be taken to ensure that the measurement of constructs in the model is valid and reliable, and no trade-off has been made between the two requirements for good causal modeling in our analyses. In fact, there is a robust consistency between findings reported in model 1 and model 2, substantiating that sample size is adequate for statistical inference made in our study based on a random sample of young people (see reference [43] for further details).

2.F). We thank this reviewer for this insightful suggestion. The revised manuscript now has the proportions in the two age groups (see Table 3). The multivariate analyses were carried out so as to isolate the age effects which are now presented in Tables 5 and 6 and described in the text.

2.G). The revised paper has been edited. See 1.C) above.

In sum, I believe that we have been fully responsive to all reviewers’ comments and suggestions and that our revised paper warrants publication in your journal.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Barthélémy Kuate Defo
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