Author's response to reviews

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

Authors:

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Version: 6 Date: 10 June 2013

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.D) (for reviewer 1) and 2.A) to 2.C) (for reviewer 2), as in the attachments.

**Reviewer 1: Apolinaras Zaborskis**

1A) We have incorporated the reviewer’s point "There is evidence that child's relations with father and mother are different, especially in respect of child's gender." in the paper. Tables 3, 4 and 5 are carried out by whether the parent is "father only", "mother only" or "both parent", and estimating effects in Tables 4 (male respondents) and 5 (female respondents) allow identifying the distinctive effects father vs. mother on young people's sexual risk-taking.

1B) We agree with this referee that the text of the manuscript and the contents of tables are incoherent regarding this information. This has been corrected; the text and tables have been harmonized.

1C) We have shortened the paper as recommended by removing Table 4 and the corresponding text from the text of the manuscript. The new tables are numbered 1 to 5.

1D) We have now included in the Limitations section, the fact that our study is based on quite old data collected in 1996-1997.

**Reviewer 2: Kofi Awusabo-Asare**

2A to 2C) All the suggestions of reviewer 2 are incorporated in the revision. "Culture-informed" is removed from the sentence in the text of the paper.

Sincerely,

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cc: Dr. Barthélemy Kuate Defo
Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 30 April 2013

Reviewer: Apolinaras Zaborskis

Reviewer's report:
- General comments
In comparison with the previous version it seems that the manuscript has been revised and much improved.

- Major weakness (Compulsory Revisions)
No comments of this level.

- Minor Essential Revisions
author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

1A. Please give more details about what it does mean by ‘parent’ (e.g. ‘parent-child connectedness’, ‘parent-child communication’, etc.). Does it mean ‘father’ or ‘mother’ or both in general. There is evidence that child’s relations with father and mother are different, especially in respect of child’s gender.

1B. Please check the number of question if five, three or four are indicated for parent-child communication as follows:
Parent-child communication was assessed by five "yes or no" questions (last para in p.14)
3 items (Cronbach’s alfa was .89 at age 12 and .84 at the time of the survey) (Table 2 Column 'Dimensions') and four questions are listed in the same line in column 'Content'.

1C. In order to shorten the paper I recommend to remove Table 4 and the corresponding text from manuscript body as it does not give additional information as well as it is not correctly to use correlation analysis for categorical variables.

1D. One of limitation of this study is quite old data collected in 1996-1997. Please consider this fact in Limitations section.

- Discretionary Revisions
These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential. No comments of this level.
Effects of parenting practices on sexual risk-taking among young people in Cameroon

The revised paper has taken into consideration a number of the suggestions and recommendations from the earlier review. This has led to an improvement in the current version. The paper is worth publishing.

I have the following minor issues which should be clarified with a statement or two:

2A. Page 17, Line 7 from section beginning ‘Results …’:
The statement is “The early sexual debut appears to be negatively …”. The statement should be “Age at sexual debut appears to be …”. That will make sense.

2B. Pages 21-22:
There is a statement which compares the results from the study with that from Biddlecom et al indicating that the results from the two studies contradicted one another. The statement is left hanging i.e. without any comment. It will be useful to have a comment. One possibility is the differences in sheer numbers involved.
2C. Page 24: “Culture-informed” in the sentence beginning: “Notwithstanding these shortcomings …”
This appears out of the blue. The issue of “culture-informed” would need to be clarified is it has to be there as presented.

Kofi Awusabo-Asare