Author's response to reviews

Title: A qualitative study of perceived risk for HIV transmission among Police Officers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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The BMC Public Health Editorial Team

Object: MS: 1771776190842824 - A qualitative study of perceived risk for HIV transmission among Police Officers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your and reviewer’s comments.

Reviewers’ comments
Discretionary Revisions

1. Abstract
It would be better to reword the result section to use more academic language, for example not using terms that the participants use such as “common tragedy”

Response
The result section has been reworded and the word tragedy has been replaced with ‘common problem’. (See page 3, paragraph 1, line 1)

2. Background
Can you expand on the statement that there evidence that the effectiveness of biomedical interventions has been slowed down by insufficient behavior change? What interventions? How effective are they? And what behavior change is referred to? Can these all be referenced?

Last sentence should add “and institutional practices”

Response
The statements have been expanded and referenced (See page 4, paragraph 1, Lines 4-11).

The words ‘institutional practices’ have been added in the last sentence (See page 5, paragraph 1, last line)

3. Methods
The detail in the first sentence is not needed
Study population – why is it important for the study that the POs have completed 4 years of secondary education

Response
The detail in the first sentence has been deleted (See page 5, paragraph 1, and first line)

The issue of education among the police officers was referred to in the study to show that the study participants are considered educated in a Tanzanian context and can make independent decision to participate in studies related to HIV/AIDS (See study population, page 6, lines 6-15).

3. Results
Don’t use the word “confessed”. It implies a judgment on their behavior
Check all the English are there are lots of places where “the” and “a” are not Written

Encountering risky sexual behavior within and outside work place – Why is confidentiality an issue? Is it good or bad?

Response
To make the word ‘confessed’ less judgmental, we have replaced it with Non-judgmental word ‘admitted’ (See pages 14, paragraph 1 line 2)

The issue whether confidentiality is bad or good depends on the study participants’ views. In this case, the woman referred to confidentiality as bad practice in the sense that those who were HIV infected could transmit the infection to colleagues who may not be aware of the women’s HIV status. (See page 15, the first paragraph followed by a quote)

Overall, this is a good paper that would be improved by further editing and ensuring that emotive and judgmental terms and statements are changed

Response
Concur with the reviewer’s observation

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published

Response
An expert in English language has edited the manuscript (See the attached draft with tracks).

Sincerely Yours

Edith A.M Tarimo