Author's response to reviews

Title: Industrial Air Pollution in Rural Kenya: Community Awareness, Risk Perception and Associations between Risk Variables

Authors:

Eunice A Omanga (omangae@gmail.com)
Lisa Ulmer (lu25@drexel.edu)
Zekarias Berhane (zb26@drexel.edu)
Michael J Gatari (mgatari@uonbi.ac.ke)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS COMMENTS – February 26, 2014

Manuscript Title: Industrial Air Pollution in Rural Kenya: Community Awareness, Risk Perception and Associations between Risk Variables

Reference is made to your email of January 22, 2014 with comments on our manuscript from one of the reviewers (Giuliana Cortese).

We thank the reviewer for the feedback. We have gone through the comments and addressed them to the best of our ability.

Here below please find the point-by-point response to the issues raised. The revised manuscript is herewith re-submitted.

Reviewer's report
Title: Industrial Air Pollution in Rural Kenya: Community Awareness, Risk Perception and Associations between Risk Variables
Version: 7 Date: 22 January 2014

Reviewer: Giuliana Cortese

Reviewer's report:  
Major Compulsory Revisions

- Previous Comment 1: The authors give a single table (Table 4) with all the results about logistic regression. The authors misunderstood part of my comment. My previous question was why in the paper (Results section and Table 3) the authors reported only results about three of the perception outcomes, and they ignored the remaining two perceptions instead. The authors must justify why these results are missing. Why are they missing? Generally, if the section "statistical analysis" describes the variables of interest and analyses that were made, then the readers are expected to read all the results about these variables. The alternative solution is that the authors delete the two perception outcome for which they do not have results along all the paper.

Response: We apologize for misunderstanding part of the reviewer’s concern. Logistic regression was used to test the association of the 31 independent variables with each of the five primary perception outcome variables. In the final analysis, the three perception variables presented in Table 3 were the only ones with at least six predictors. We felt concentrating on these three will suffice for the manuscript. The remaining ones had 3 or less predictors and we felt discussing them will not add value to paper. Besides, results from one the remaining two seem to be subset of one already being presented (‘Respondent believes the industry will expose him/her to hazards if it opens in the future’ and ‘Respondent believes PPM has exposed him/her to hazardous chemicals’) To make our results section complete have now included the two missing perception outcomes (pg. 18). It is however not possible to present all five on one page (Table 3) unless we make the font very, very small.
New comments:

2) At page 13, please correct the sentence mentioning Table 1 and Figure 2. Table 2 gives a description of the demographic characteristics across sub-locations. Please delete the sentence about variance, which is wrong.

Response: *We thank the reviewer for pointing out the error. We have made the correction by deleting ‘variance’ and referred to Table 1 only.*

3) Page 11. The description of the dependent variables in logistic regression is confusing. Please correct as suggested: "Logistic regression was used to study the association of the original categorical independent variables with each of the five primary perception outcome (binary variables): - if.......". In logistic regression independent variables do not need to be necessarily binary categorical variables (and thus collapsed into two categories, as the authors write).

Response: *We thank the reviewer for the observation. We have revised this section as suggested.*

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: 'I declare that I have no competing interests'