Author's response to reviews

Title: HIV Behavioural Interventions Targeted Towards Older Adults: a Systematic Review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to third set of reviewer comments re: manuscript “HIV Behavioural Interventions Targeted Towards Older Adults: a Systematic Review”

Thank you for the latest review. We have endeavoured to respond to the editor’s comments and respond to those. See below and a revised manuscript with track changes.

**Editor comments**

"I think that the major issue mentioned in the review is the small number of articles. There are likely to be unique issues for older adults that are important. The issue of representativeness is a weakness of all studies of hidden populations. It isn't a problem unique to this analysis.

Perhaps the authors could focus on the last issue mentioned by Dr. Butler and help the field by providing guidance on future interventions and studies. What are the unique needs of the population? How can we tailor interventions for them? What programs are missing? This material could be used to help develop programs for an important and aging population."

**Our response:** We have emphasised in the discussion the small number of articles and the limited conclusions that can be drawn from such a review. In the concluding paragraph, we added more guidance on future interventions and studies highlighting channels to reach older adults, messaging models and content as well as whether studies should target the older adults themselves or health providers.

**Reviewer:** India Butler

They mention the ROADMAP trial as being one of the "most successful" interventions but I think that comparisons should not be made among such differing studies.

It is also unlikely that the findings of the studies reviewed will be applicable (even in the Americas) due to the very small numbers and whether they are representative.

**Our response:** We have reworded the mention of the ROADMAP trial to make it more neutral. We have also emphasised that the studies are very limited in number and are unlikely to be representative.
Joel Negin
On behalf of authorship team