Author's response to reviews

Title: Focus Group Interviews examination of knowledge, attitude and practice to lead exposure in South Western Nigeria

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Reviewer's report

This paper describes findings from four focus groups with residents of Ibadan, Nigeria about their perceptions of lead poisoning. Little is known about lead poisoning knowledge, attitudes and practices in Africa. The study will contribute to the knowledge base needed to design effective environmental health education interventions, but needs some additional detail and clarification.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Describe the sampling frame in more detail. The authors mention the RECLES study as providing the context, but what that means in terms of recruitment isn't clear.

The sampling frame has been described in more detail in the methods section. We have described the city, the institutions involved in the study and the socio-economic features of the site.

2. Provide more detail on the data analysis. Were the transcripts coded? The authors say the analysis was done both manually and with ATLAS. This should be described in more detail.

We have described the method of data analysis in more detail in the methods section

3. The narrative should include a discussion of the focus group guide and its major content areas. The major topics could also be included in Table 1, along with the questions used.

We have included a discussion of the FG guide and its major content area and included this in Table 1 as well as the questions that we used

4. Given the title, one expects to see findings related to knowledge, attitudes and practices. It looks as if only one practice was explored--having their domestic environment tested for lead. It would be useful to re-organize the findings and accompanying table so these three categories are more apparent.

We have introduced sub-heading for each of the categories of the study in the results section and the accompanying table

5. Add a discussion of how the participants compare to the population at large.

We have compared the participants in the study with the population in South Western Nigeria at large

6. Add a discussion of Nigeria's current regulatory environment with respect to lead.
We have said all there is about the Nigerian regulatory environment with respect to lead.

7. Expand the limitations section--what are the implications of having such heterogeneous groups?

This has been done.

8. Add implications for future research.

This has also been done

9. Split Table 2 into two tables.

This has been done

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Change the title to "An examination of knowledge, attitudes and practices related to lead exposure in Southwestern Nigeria."

The title has been changed

2. There are some language problems which can be easily fixed: change to "knowledge, attitudes and practices related to lead exposure" throughout.

This has been fixed

3. Abstract, 7th sentence. We found that there WAS
4. Page 3, add s to metal.
5. Page 3 first para, change commonest to most common
6. Page 3 first para, add s to sources in second to last para
7. Page 4, first para, shorten first sentence
8. Page 4, second para, add d to constitute
9. Page 5, second para, fix English
10. Page 7, remove "on lead" in heading
11. Page 11, third para, add "to our knowlegbe, there is no...." and drop phrase about PubMed search.
12. Fix English in last paragraph.

All the above have been fixed.