Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in Sexual Behaviour among Young People associated with HIV Prevalence Decline in Zambia

Version: 2 Date: 4 October 2006

Reviewer: Geoff Garnett

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a careful, well written analysis of changes in sexual behaviour in young, urban adults in Zambia, with a comparable rural population. The function of the manuscript is to look at behavioural risk factors related to an observed decline in HIV prevalence. The identification of 'confounding' variables that seem to explain the relationship between HIV risk and education is an interesting exercise relating distal to proximate determinants and I thought more could have been made of this in the discussion.

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

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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)
There are a few very minor language errors:
page 5 line minus 2 insert 'variable' after 'categorical'
results line 5 start the paragraph with 'The proportion of...'
Page 8 line minus 8 it should be either 'used a condom' or 'used condoms'
Page 8 line minus 2; page 12 line 7 should be 'condom use'
Page 12 line 12 'reporting bias'; and 'The finding that controlling for less...'

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
I think more could be made of the proximal determinants for HIV risk associated with education.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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