Reviewer's report

Title: Association between fertility and HIV status: what implications for HIV estimates?

Version: 2 Date: 16 July 2008

Reviewer: Massimo Fabiani

Reviewer's report:

General comment:

The paper is improved. However, I still have some minor comments.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Abstract – Result: I think it is important to point out the unexpected high fertility found among HIV-positive teenagers in the urban area. I suggest to add to the sentence “Similar trends were observed in the urban area” “, except for HIV-positive women, among whom the peak in fertility was observed at 15-19 years, with a rate higher than that observed among the urban HIV-negative women of the same age”.

2. Results – 1st paragraph: please, replace “mean age at first intercourse” with “median age at first intercourse”.

3. Conclusions (both abstract and main text): based on the considerations done in my previous report, I think it is important to point out that the presented RIR should be used to calculate the adjusted estimates only for women in the general female population of Cameroon who are sexually active. I suggest to modify the sentence “The findings of this study ….” in “The findings of this study support the use of the summary RIR for the adjustment of the ANC-based HIV prevalence to estimate the prevalence in the sexually active adult female population”.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests