Author's response to reviews

Title: The denominator problem: Estimating MSM-specific incidence of sexually transmitted infections and prevalence of HIV using population sizes of MSM derived from Internet surveys

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Dear editors,

we have made the following changes in the manuscript “The denominator problem: Estimating MSM-specific incidence of sexually transmitted infections and prevalence of HIV using population sizes of MSM derived from Internet surveys” as requested:

# we have shortened the abstract to comply with the 350-word limit (now 345 words)
# we renamed the “Background and Objectives” section as “Background”
# we state our conclusions in a dedicated “Conclusions” section, apart from “Discussion”
# we stated the name of the ethical committee which approved the KABaSTI study in the Methods section (page 7). The GMA studies are part of the national HIV/AIDS response evaluation and monitoring. Due to the fact that it is a self-administered anonymous survey no approval of an ethical committee was sought.

As recommended by the reviewer Onno de Zwart we have given an explanation for high HIV incidence in border regions in the West and South of Germany as depicted in figure 1a in the Results section (page 9).

We addressed the comment by reviewer Francoise Dubois-Arber about a missing sensitivity analysis for incidence data by adding an explanatory footnote to Table 1.

Sincerely

Ulrich Marcus