Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of primary health care services between urban and rural settings after the introduction of the first urban health centre in Vyronas, Greece

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Version: 3 Date: 7 May 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We are sending you the revised manuscript entitled: “Comparison of Primary Health Care services between urban and rural settings after the introduction of the first urban health centre in Vyronas, Greece”, MS: 8564514291634029 for publication in the BMC Health Services Research.

We would like to thank you for your interest on our scientific work. We hope that this second revision of the manuscript will further improve it in a way that it will be possible to be published.

All changes made are underlined throughout the body of the text. There is no financial or other conflict of interest that might have biased the work and all authors have seen and approved the manuscript.

We have addressed the reviewers’ comments in the revised manuscript. Point by point response to those comments follows.

However, it should be noticed that Reviewer #2, Ms Farmer corrected the first manuscript that was submitted and not the revised one. However, we tried to integrate all her corrections that were valid in the revised (2nd ed) manuscript.

Looking forward to receiving a reply,

On behalf of all co-authors,

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Dear Reviewers,

I would like to thank you for your encouraging comments on our manuscript entitled: “Comparison of primary health care services between urban and rural settings after the introduction of the first urban health centre in Vyronas, Greece”. We performed a second careful revision of the submitted manuscript, incorporating your new suggestions, in order to improve the clarity and quality of the present work. All changes made are underlined throughout the body of the text and tables. We hope that our responses to the issues raised are proven satisfactory, resulting in a more straightforward and improved paper that is suitable for publication in the Journal.
Replies to Reviewers’ comments

Reply to Reviewer 1 (Mr. Harris)

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract:
-Background: line 4: “primary care have been inexistent in major cities” should be “primary care have not been in existence in major cities”.

Background:
-Page 5 second paragraph first sentence: “The rationale for the conduction of this study is” should be “The rationale for conducting this study was”

Results:
-Page 10 second paragraph second sentence: ‘The HCOV is responsible for an about 4 times larger population than this of the HCNM’ should read ‘The HCOV is responsible for a population that is about 4 time larger than that of the HCNM’.

-Next sentence “The proportion of the two genders did not differ.” should be “The gender distribution did not differ.”.

-Page 11 third paragraph: “In 2005, the number of citizens who utilized the PHC services of the HCOV was steadily increasing” should read “During 2005, the number of citizens who utilized the PHC services of the HCOV steadily increased”. “whereas… should be a new sentence.”
All corrections are made, according to your suggestions

Conclusions:

-Page 17/18: The first three sentences do not really follow each other well. Perhaps the third sentence could lead a section with evidence for this being provided by the other two sentences.

These three sentences have now been reformed, resulting in a more reader-friendly syntax:

“According to the results of our study, it seems that there are differences between an urban and a rural population in Greece regarding demographics, health needs and reasons for choosing a PHC unit. The aforementioned differences require a flexible health system that is able to provide the proper PHC services in each population in order to satisfy their special health needs.”

- Page 18 second para second line “produces” should be “produced”.

This word is now replaced
Reply to Reviewer 2 (Ms Farmer)

Reviewer's report:

I am happy with the revisions, but I sent a version of the manuscript to you with corrected English. The article needs to be checked by a statistician as I do not have statistical knowledge.

We would like to thank you for your corrections. However, it seems that you revised the first manuscript, before the major revisions. Nevertheless, we integrated all your corrections in the new, revised for second time manuscript.

This article is already checked by a statistician. The undersigned has a Master of Science degree in Biostatistics and the other reviewer is already satisfied with the analysis made.