Reviewer's report

Title: Contraception use and pregnancy among 15-24 year old South African women: a nationally representative cross-sectional survey

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2007

Reviewer: John Cleland

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well-written and informative report

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
(1) You need to tell readers how many of these young women live with parents or guardians. This is useful background information in its own right but is also needed to assess the relevance of two of your predictors (parents' knowledge of nocturnal whereabouts and parental strictness).

(2) It would also be useful to specify how many respondents are mothers and to discuss briefly contraceptive method-choice by motherhood status. The expectation is that condoms predominate among non-mothers and hormonals among mothers. This topic is discussed at the end of the paper but without any prior presentation of relevant results.

(3) I question the wisdom of using "discussion of condoms" as a predictor in your multivariate model. Causal attribution is very problematic and its inclusion also makes interpretation of effects of other factors more difficult.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after discretionary revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

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