Reviewer's report

Title: Unintended pregnancy: Magnitude and correlates in six urban sites in Senegal

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Reviewer: Nega Assefa

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Dear Journal editor:

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to review an article entitled “Unintended pregnancy: Magnitude and correlates in six urban sites in Senegal” I think the paper is timely and has value in identifying unmet need for family planning in the country. It also have input in managing the problems associated with unsafe abortion. Here down I have some general and specific comments, I suggest that would improve the paper.

Major Compulsary:

1. the introduction needs re-work based on the comments given, as some of the sections are too much

2. Methodology, the type of analysis needs to be revisited, I suggested GEE than SVY because it is not full cluster by its nature. Or multilevel analysis than SVY if they have truly couple level factors but I fail to find the factor in the tables.

3. Methodology, also to think making unintended pregnancy as a reference category, because they are studying unintended pregnancy, which should have a positive number than 1 or zero. to address wider reader

4. Methodology, changing the way findings are presented, coefficients (#) to exponent of coefficients (OR) to address wider reader.

5. Discussion: the poorly written section of this article is discussion; you need to re-work taking time. Your outputs should be discussed, for the positive and negative values compared to other findings. It is not a conclusive remark, rather showing the scientific merit of your paper.

Minor Essential:

Abstract:

You started by saying “In Senegal, unwanted pregnancies ….. Less is known about this topic among married women…..” but you are not including in your study only married women, why you used this statement?

Introduction:

Page 5, paragraph 1-3 page 6 paragraph 1: starting from “The 2010-2011 Senegal Demographic…….” up to page 6 paragraph 1 line number 1-7, not clear why you put these things for two reasons.
1. The First reason is, you have already concluded in page 4 last statement “….Less is known about unintended pregnancy in francophone West Africa, and especially Senegal.” In my view what shall next come after this statement is the statement in page six line number 7 a statement starting “…..This paper seeks to fill these gaps…..”.

2. The second reason is you gave too much emphasis on unmarried women, while majority of your study population is married women. You may talk little but not this much.

Methodology:
Please remove the work cluster not to confuse with cluster sampling which is totally different from the way you selected sample. You may replace the word with “Enumeration area”

Paragraph 2: you said “The main outcome variable for this study is the intentionality of the last pregnancy since 2009” please say it “…. for this study is pregnancy intention”, I am wondering why you give the time 2009, do you want to verify that the women is infertile.

Svy Command is used for cluster data, your data is stratified by enumeration areas that was proportionally allocated than a clustered data. Why you used SVY command? I suggest you use GEE model or Multi-level analysis than the SVY. GEE takes into account the clustering effect in your stratification by enumeration area. You have also used couple level variable in model 4, which is best handled by Multi-level analysis. SVY is best for full cluster sampling techniques which is not the case for you.

Result:
Please take the first statement starting with “Table 1 shows the……” to the last of the description.

Page 10 1st paragraph last statements, it appears as if you are writing discussion. “Indeed, several studies have demonstrated that short birth intervals (less than 2 years) are harmful to the health and nutritional status of children and increase their risk of death [27,28,29].” here you are required to write only your findings.

Page 10 2nd paragraph: you started a paragraph by saying “More interesting is…..” Don’t be judgmental in your result writing. Just put what you found. Don’t use any emotion words.

Page 11 paragraph 1 line number 3 the statement starting “the reference group…..” and ending with “…. versus unintended pregnancy” this is not needed here. if at all needed you put it in the methodology section.

Page 11 paragraph 2 line number 9 “..Not surprisingly…” Avoid

Discussion:
First paragraph line number 1-5 I suggest remove this section. Staring with “our study…..” ending “….categories of women”

Page 14 paragraphs 2 and 3 page 15 paragraphs 1 and 2; please just
summarize these sections in one to two paragraphs and put it as conclusion. The section smells little like discussion, it is a conclusive remark from your study.

Table 1: Age group classification 40+ seams too much, why you don’t make 40-44, 45-49

Table 2: I can’t understand your P values at the middle of the column, why to which value are you referring?

Table 3: you put the reference category to be unintended pregnancies in both the never pregnant and intended pregnancy. That is why it shows a reverse association. While you are studying unintended pregnancy it is better to put higher marks for unintended pregnancy and lower mark for other categories so that the association will not be reversed, and will be clear for any reader. As it appears though it doesn’t not have a problem with the statistical analysis, it is not wise way of putting values to address all kinds of readers.

Again, though it is not wrong to put coefficients of analysis, again to address wide section of readers it is advised to put exponents of coefficients (OR) than the row coefficients in the analysis.

thank you

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

None