Reviewer's report

Title: Why are children not vaccinated against measles? A cross-sectional study in two Nigerian states

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Reviewer: Solen Kernéis

Reviewer's report:

The authors estimated the vaccine coverage against measles and investigated the barriers to immunization on a large sample of children aged 12-23 months, in two Nigerian states. The methods are appropriate and well described, and discussion/conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Major comments:

1. My major concern stands on the fact that vaccination status relied only on maternal recall, with no written confirmation. Although it is understandable in the context, it should be emphasized as a notable limitation. Did the other studies (references 5 and 6) use the same methodology?

2. I think that it would be more appropriate to summarize the two paragraphs of the Methods and Results sections on the use of the results of this study to guide discussion with health authorities in the discussion, since they do not formerly present data obtained from the study.

Minor comments:

3. In the paragraph reporting the views from the focus groups, it is not clear to me if reasons why children are not vaccinated were given by the order of frequency (“some groups said”, “many groups blamed”, “many focus groups”…).

4. Please define more precisely the variables that were included in the bivariate analysis. Does it mean that for each variable studied in the univariate analysis, the analysis was adjusted on the state (Cross River/Bauchi)?

5. Did the authors collect data on the number of doses of measles vaccine received by the participants? If this information was not collected, it could be notified in the discussion.

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