Author's response to reviews

Title: Scaling up combined community-based HIV prevention interventions targeting truck drivers in Morocco: effectiveness on HIV testing and counseling

Authors:

Hakima Himmich (h.himmich@gmail.com)
Lahoucine Ouarsas (ouarsas.lahoucine@gmail.com)
Fatima Zahra Hajouji (fatimazahra.hajouji@gmail.com)
Patrizia Carrieri (pmcarrieri@aol.com)
Perrine Roux (perrine.roux@inserm.fr)

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Dear Editor,

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to submit this manuscript of original research entitled "Scaling up combined community-based HIV prevention interventions targeting truck drivers in Morocco: effectiveness on HIV testing and counseling" for publication in your journal.

We present here the results of the effectiveness of a combined community-based intervention on HIV testing and counseling in truck drivers. A before-after design was used: two identical surveys conducted on two representative samples of truck drivers (in 2007 and in 2012) were able to assess the impact of a 5-year combined community intervention targeting truck drivers.

The results of the study show “a population effect” as the prevalence of receiving HIV testing and counseling in truck drivers was significantly higher in 2012 compared with 2007, because a considerable proportion of individuals in the 2012 survey had been exposed to the intervention. Secondly after multiple adjustment, a dose response relationship between exposure to the intervention and increased likelihood of receiving HIV testing and counseling was also found in the 2012 survey.

These results may have major public health implications as knowledge of HIV testing results may also modify risk behaviors and is the first step in the sequence leading to use antiretroviral treatment as prevention. They are encouraging for other countries which urgently need to implement prevention interventions for most-at-risk populations and clearly show the power of community-based organization interventions in settings where resources for HIV prevention remain limited.

We hope you will find our manuscript of interest for your journal.

Kind regards

Patrizia Carrieri