Author’s response to reviews

Title: Self-reported genital warts among sexually-active university students: a cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

we are resubmitting the above-mentioned manuscript. We are grateful for the reviews, and your comments have resulted in a substantial improvement in our report. Please find the revised version of our paper attached with a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ remarks.

Yours sincerely,

Vincenzo Baldo

Reviewer 1

1- (Background, Page 2, line 3): Please type in the full name when it first appears and then the short name "GWs".

Done
2- (Results, Page 2, line 3): Please add the vaccinated data in the GW and no-GW group.

We have added the HPV vaccination data, for the sample overall and by GW and no-GW group (Table 1-3)

Material and methods:

3- (Data collection, Page 5, line 5): Please explain why the data of alcohol intake are missed?

We have added the data on alcohol intake

4- (Data collection, Page 5, line 10): Please explain why the HIV and syphilis are excluded?

This was an oversight, thank you. We have now added HIV and syphilis to the list of STD.

5- (Results, Page 7, line 12): Please add the data of age groups at the time of their first sexual intercourse in Table 1.

Done

6- (Results, Page 7, line 16): Please add the data of age groups at the mean number of sex partners in the previous 24 months in Table 1.

We have modified this variable, as suggested by Reviewer 2

7- (Results, Page 7, line 19): Please add the data of HPV vaccination in Table 1.

We have added the data on HPV vaccination in Table 1
8- (Results, Page 7, line 24): Were the episodes of GWs last and cases cure different between male and female?

Unfortunately, the questionnaires do not provide this information

9- (Results, Page 8, line 6): Please correct ".2.2".

Done

10- (Results, Page 7, line 13): Please add number, %, and p values in Table 2.

Table 2 has been modified, also in response to a comment from Reviewer 2

Reviewer 2:

1. The title mentioned "sexually-active university students", but in the "statistical analysis" part P6 mentioned "Respondents who reported never having had sexual intercourse were excluded from the multivariate analysis". My question is how many of sexually-inactive students. Wether they should be excluded from this study?

Individuals who reported never having had sexual intercourse were excluded from the study (and the Material and methods and Results have been reworded accordingly).

2. The authors did not specify the multivariate analysis variable selection criteria.

All the variables were inserted in the multivariate analysis.
3. For the result part, I noticed that some important variables were not analyzed in depth, such as HPV vaccine.

As suggested by Reviewer 1, the variables have been added and a comment has been included in the discussion section.

4. Some important outcome variables may be a bit far-fetched. For the variable "number of sexual partners in past 24 months", it was discrete from the Mean and SD, as well as OR values were not so convinced with using continuous variables of multi-factor analysis.

This variable has been modified as suggested, and the multivariate analysis has been run again.

5. Table 1 may have calculation error, for the total number of 'single relationship'.

Thank you. This mistake has been corrected.

6. I suggest Table 2 should list the exact number of GW cases for each variable.

We have split Table 2 in two, one for males and one for females, and added the information suggested.