Author’s response to reviews

Title: New types of drug use and risks of drug use among men who have sex with men: A cross-sectional study in Hangzhou, China

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise our manuscript, we appreciate editor and reviewers very much for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions on our manuscript entitled “New types of drug use and risks of drug use among men who have sex with men: A cross-sectional study in Hangzhou, China”. (INFD-D-17-01714).

We have studied reviewer’s comments carefully and have made revision which marked in red in the paper. We have tried our best to revise our manuscript according to the comments. Attached please find the revised version, which we would like to submit for your kind consideration.

We would like to express our great appreciation to you and reviewers for comments on our paper. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,
List of Responses

Reviewer #1:

Please define high-risk behaviors as a footnote below the table or in the main text. Please also proof read the manuscript and improve language as best as possible.

Reply:

We have defined high-risk behaviors as a footnote below the table 2 and 4. We used Editage [www.editage.cn] for English language editing again, the manuscript need some language adjustments.

Reviewer #2:

1, For the response to the first comments: the author emphasized that this study wants to show what's new for MSM in Hangzhou. In this way, this paper should be published on a Chinese journal, not an international one, and BMC ID may not suit to you. In addition, the author emphasized that this study was conducted between 2015-2016, and the manuscript was written at 2017, even like this, the author still need to be updated. I notified that the author have updated the references.

Reply:

The survey in Hangzhou was part of the Chinese CDC organized from 2015 to 2016. The national HIV prevalence reached 8.0% in 2015. In Hangzhou, the HIV prevalence among MSM has been 8.5% from 2008. It meant that the HIV epidemic in Hangzhou forecasts a future trend for China. In this condition, we think that our paper conducted in Hangzhou, could provide experience for the HIV and new-type drugs control among MSM in other areas in the future work.

2 When reply to "The manuscript need some language adjustments." The author said: We used Editage [www.editage.cn] for English language editing again, the manuscript need some language adjustments. I cannot understand the meaning of this sentence.
After revising the revision 1 manuscript, we used Editage (English language service company) for performing a recheck of the revised manuscript, and improved the English language.

3, I know the HIV epidemic among MSM in China, but how Hangzhou MSM different with other MSM in China. Need to mention this in the introduction part. In addition, the author mentioned that "The HIV prevalence among MSM has been 8.5% since 2008. During this 116 same time period, the national HIV prevalence was 4.9% from 2008-2009". 8.5% for which year? The HIV prevalence among Chinese MSM already reached 8% (Tang Songyuan et al, BMC ID) in 2015, but the author still used the very old data.

Reply:

The HIV prevalence among MSM has been above 8.0% in Hangzhou from 2008. During this same time period, the national average HIV prevalence was 4.9%. The national HIV prevalence reached 8.0% was seven years later, in 2015. We emphasized that the HIV epidemic among MSM in Hangzhou forecasts a future trend for China.

4, in the response, the author mentioned that "The recruited participants need had anal sex with men in the last 3 months, firstly, to identify the real MSM, in additional, we chose the 3 months want to choose high sexual behavior MSM." If a MSM had ten partners in the last four month, and had no partner in the last three months, then this man is a "real MSM", and not have "high sexual behavior", based on the author's definition. For the definition of high sexual behavior, Can we only use three months to define "high sexual behavior"? In addition, what does "high sexual behavior" mean?

Reply:

The primary outcome of the paper was the new types of drugs used in the past 3 months, so the study participants need had anal sex with men in the last 3 months before the study. The participants need have previous HIV test results that were negative or unknown. Our study focus on the relationship between MSM had new-types of drugs use and had anal sex with men in the last 3 months before study.

We have defined high-risk behaviors as a footnote below the table 2 and 4. High-risk sexual behavior meant that MSM have sexual behavior without condom use. MSM had sexual behavior with condom use or had not sexual defined as no high-risk behavior

5, "had previous HIV test results that were negative or unknown", Does this only mean people who ever tested for HIV?

Reply:
No, in meant that our participants included not only had previous HIV test were negative or unknown the HIV test results, but also had never HIV test before study.

6. Since you excluded people living with HIV and known their HIV status, then the "HIV prevalence" reported in this study is not a real prevalence. And it is not comparable to other studies focusing on HIV prevalence.

Reply:

Yes, it was not a real prevalence. In the discussion section, we avoid comparing to other studies focusing on HIV prevalence. Our study focused on the MSM who had previous HIV test results that were negative or unknown, excluded people living with HIV and known their HIV status. Among Chinese MSM, the proportions of HIV test were above 50%, it indicated that in our study had a high proportion of HIV positive was newly infections. In the future research, we would use the BED capture enzyme immunoassay to calculate HIV incidence, and to determine the relationship between new type drugs use and new incidence of HIV infection in future study.