Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying High Risk Subgroups of MSM: A Latent Class Analysis using Two Samples

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Allison Carter

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:
1. Many findings are listed in the conclusion. These should go into results. It would also be helpful for the reader if you labelled the latent classes with actual names.

2. "Interacting" suggests you've included an interaction term. If these factors were simply found to be independently associated with the outcome, please modify language to reflect that.

Methods:
1. LCA analyses are well-described. But please also include a description of descriptive, bivariable, and multivariable analyses.

Results:
1. Associations appear to be unadjusted. Did you conducted a multiple-adjusted model to identify independent predictors of latent class membership? If so, OR should read AOR. If not, this should be made clearer and justification provided.

2. Also, results need to be described in the correct way. E.g., You write: members of highest risk class had a greater odds of identifying as non-male (odds ratio [OR]: 4.01, 95% CI,1.30-12.36). The correct interpretation is that: non-male participants (relative to males) were 4 times more likely to belong to the "highest risk" latent classes (versus "lowest risk" latent class). Your dependent variable is latent class. In other words, you are identifying predictors of latent class membership.

Conclusion:
1. I think this section should be called "Discussion" and is missing final concluding remarks.

2. Also much of the text re-explains the results. What is needed here is more contextualizing of results within the current literature. For example, how do you findings around gender fluidity align or depart from what's previously known? Similar comment for other key factors (e.g., forced sex, closeted).
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal