Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with intended use of a Maternity Waiting Home in Southern Ethiopia: a community-based cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 04 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Sarah Rominski

Reviewer's report:

This revision is much improved. There are, however, many grammatical errors that need to be addressed (for example, in the background section, it is written, "In 2016, only 26% of women in Ethiopia said to have delivered their..." This should instead say something like, "In 2016, only 26% of women in Ethiopia reported delivering their..."). This is just one example; the whole manuscript needs a heavy copy edit before it can be published. On page 7, the term "relatively household wealth" is used; I believe the authors mean "relative household wealth".

In the abstract, it is written that logistic regression was used. However, in the methods section of the paper, I only see this, "Crude Odds Ratio (OR) and adjusted Odds Ratio (aOR) with 95% CI were used to measure the effect of each independent variable on the target outcome variable." I am assuming this is by logistic regression, but this needs to be more clearly stated. Also, how did the authors choose which variables to include to get the adjusted Odds Ratios?

I found the juxtaposition of these two statements in both the abstract and the results section disconcerting; "Thirty women (7.0%) had heard of a MWH prior to the survey. Out of all women, 236 (55.1%) indicated they intended to stay at a MWH during the current or next pregnancy." If only 7% had heard of them, how can a majority plan to stay in them? I need a segue between the two, perhaps something like, "while only 7% of women had heard of a MWH prior to the survey, after learning about them, 55.1% indicated they would stay in one..." or something.

My only other substantive comment is I do not see in the Discussion section any discussion of the ability of the health system to absorb a large influx of women for delivery. If the current rate is about 25%, and there are already quality concerns, can the health system provide high quality care for many more women? Encouraging more women to use the health system for delivery, which is the stated purpose of MWHs, could increase the number of women who receive poor quality care, perhaps backfiring in attempts to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

Finally, while in the introductory information, I would encourage the authors to include a statement of ethical review in the body of the paper.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

Yes

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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