Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing databases: determinants of sexually transmitted infections and HIV diagnosis and lack of HIV testing among men who have sex with men

Version: 2
Date: 22 July 2015
Reviewer: Xiaojun Meng

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. Background, paragraph 1, sentence 2: Relevant references should be given to support your expression.
2. Methods, paragraph 2: Which institution approved SMON should be stated.
3. The abbreviation of SOAP should be given full spelling in the main text part to explain what the SOAP is as that you have done for EMIS and SMON.
4. Methods, paragraph 3, sentence 2: You wrote that you selected 3800 cases, but in Table 2, all residences in SOAP were calculated accumulatively to be 3893. Why? Which is the accurate number?
5. Methods, paragraph 5, sentence 4: You mean that both EMIS and SMON considered the number of steady male partners, but in Table 1 you listed the Question as ‘the non-steady sex partner you most recently had sex with’. So, I want to know which is the virtual variable you analyzed in your study, steady sex partner or non-steady?
6. Result, paragraph 1, sentence 1: In Table 2, all the proportions of each kind of residence accumulated more than 100%. Please check the data right or wrong.
7. Result, paragraph 2, the last sentence: Numbers in this sentence is better to be retained for one digit after the decimal point and in such kind of format, the exact numbers are 20.4%, 24.0% and 12.9% according to your Table 2.
8. Result, paragraph 3, sentence 1 and 2: In sentence 1, you interpreted that ‘not using a condom with last partner’ was associated with being diagnosed with STI in both EMIS and EMON. But in sentence 2, you mentioned condom use with last partner did not reach significance in the multivariable model of SMON. Whether is it paradoxical? Furthermore, condom use was not included as associated factors to being diagnosed with STI in Result part in your Abstract.
9. Result, paragraph 3, sentence 4: The word of ‘shows’ should be changed as ‘showed’.
10. Result, paragraph 4, the end of sentence 2: The word of ‘does’ should be rewritten as ‘did’.
11. Discussion, paragraph 3, sentence 3: The abbreviation of ‘HIV/Aids’ should be given as ‘HIV/AIDS’.
12. Discussion, paragraph 5, sentence 3: In the expression of ‘including some of
the most important minority groups’, the most important minority groups should be explained that these groups included which concrete populations.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Abstract: Paragraph 3, sentence 2: At the end of this sentence ‘in all three databases’ is expected to be added in order to make readers understand easily.
2. ‘IDU’ was listed in your Table 2. But, you have not mentioned it in main text and it contributed nothing to your data analysis. So, I kindly suggest you can remove it from your Table 2.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.