Reviewer’s report

Title: Youth paying for sex: what are the associated factors? Findings from a cross-sectional study in Cambodia

Version: 0 Date: 23 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Brandon Brown

Reviewer's report:

Abstract
- use past tense throughout and modify grammar issues (have to had, etc)
- define adjustment
- good argument in the conclusion

Intro
- define indirect and direct FSWs
- was sex work legal in Cambodia? Until when? On the street, just brothels?
- how does the prevalence in Cambodia compare to other surrounding countries?
- in place of saying 'today' specify a year so the statement is timeless
- you might need some additional references to backup your statement about HIV being concentrated in those groups
  - are men included in that law, men selling sex?
  - how does the law prohibiting selling sex make the environment easier to buy sex?
  - flip your ordering of the paragraphs, from more general, to more specific. You have lots of global data that can be first in the intro
    - this intro is quite long, is it all necessary?
    - remove the word 'prostitute'

Methods
- why was supervision done by the PI and team for mapping?
- how were the times chosen?
- interviewer administered or participant?
- what was the training?
- how many questions in the survey
- what happened when you had an inconsistency by data enterers in EpiData?
- did you include just variables that you collected which were significant in your preliminary model?
Not sure why you went to lit review here
- what is 'highest p-value greater than 0.05'?
- Was Touro granted exempt IRB approval? If so just mention that

Results
- make sure stats in text match tables. In table 2, you have 0.08 and 0.07 in text. Apart from this, no need to replicate all the data. You can say something like slightly younger and give the p-value in text without the values and SD which people can see in the table.
- looks like those who didn't pay had less cash overall and more daily expenses. So maybe with more money they would have paid for sex
- maybe title table 2 sexual behavior vs risky. Since having a girlfriend might not be risky.
- you can probably combine table 3 with table 2, it just shows 1 column and you can show the other one as well for 'didnt pay for sex'
- I usually don't see 'theoretical' before logistic regression, so decide if you need that word. Do you mean univariate?

Discussion
- paragraph 2, were those in the same area and what was their sample size?
- in the first few paragraphs, try additional comparisons of what you found with neighboring countries, versus the 2 studies 6,9 which have been done in Cambodia
- maybe another limitation is you did not collect data from men seeking sex from other men? Maybe that's something that has high stigma in that setting and you can educate the reader
- what are the drawbacks of making sex work illegal vs controlling it in a way with HIV testing/condom use etc to empower FSWs?

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.

Unable to assess
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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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

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