Author’s response to reviews

Title: Predictors of condom use behavior among men who have sex with men in China using a modified Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills (IMB) model

Authors:
Hongbo Jiang (hongbojiang3@163.com)
Xiaobin Chen (694404785@qq.com)
Jing Li (2318371318@qq.com)
Zhimin Tan (923446314@qq.com)
Weibin Cheng (bin_cheng817@163.com)
Yi Yang (yangyigz@163.com)

Version: 2 Date: 11 Jan 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

January 11, 2019

Ref.: PUBH-D-18-03583R1

“Predictors of condom use behavior among men who have sex with men in China using a modified Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills (IMB) model”

Dear Dr. Anthony Idowu Ajayi,

Thank you very much for your letter and the review of our manuscript. We have carefully addressed all the comments and revised the manuscript as requested. Our responses to comments are detailed below.

We thank you and the reviewers for your positive comments and concrete suggestions, which provided very helpful to improve our manuscript. We hope that these changes will make the
manuscript acceptable for publication in BMC Public Health. If there are additional changes that we should make, please let us know. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Yi Yang

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Guangdong Pharmaceutical University,

No. 283 Jianghai Road, Haizhu District, Guangzhou, China, 510310

Phone/fax number: +8602034055802; E-mail: yangyigz@163.com.

Response to comments on manuscript (PUBH-D-18-03583R1) entitled “Predictors of condom use behavior among men who have sex with men in China using a modified Information-Motivation-Behavioral Skills (IMB) model” submitted to BMC Public Health for publication.

Comments:

Sylvester Reuben Okeke (Reviewer 1): I commend you for addressing all the issues raised in the first review. Very minor issues that are however very important have also been highlighted. Please consider them to make you paper more readable, understandable and useable.

Response: Thank you for your positive comments. We made the revision as your suggestions as follow.

Section Abstract

We deleted "sexual" in Line 2, deleted "an anonymous" in Line 7, revised "MSM" to "Participants" in Line 8, deleted "the" in Line 8, revised "Counseling" to "Counseling and" in Line 9, revised "of " to" in" in Line 9, deleted "sexually active" in Line 14, and deleted "of the participants" in Line 14 as your suggestions.
Section Background

We revised the first sentence of Paragraph 1 to "Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has greatly reduced HIV-related mortality since 1996. While human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) remains a leading cause of death and a disease burden in many countries and regions" as your suggestion.

We revise the first sentence of Paragraph 2 to "Evidence shows that Public health and health-promotion interventions based on social and behavioral science theories are more effective than those lacking a theoretical framework [9]. This is because these interventions are tailored towards addressing the identified predictors of the health behavior of interest" as your suggestion.

We delete "a" in Line 7, revised "sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic patients" to "people attending STIs clinics" in Line 23-24, revised "such as" to "e.g." in Line 28, delete "IMB" in Line 29, revised "extension" to "extending" in Line 40, deleted "of" in Line 40, Delete "the" in Line 43 on Page 3, revised "prediction of " to "predicting" in the first sentence of the second paragraph page 4 and revised "prediction" to "predicting" in the penultimate sentence of the second paragraph page 4 as your suggestions.

"Although the components of the IMB model influence one another", This negates evidence! If you have one, please cite it. If not, attempt saying: Although we assume that the components of …

Response: The opinion "Although the components of the IMB model influence one another, studying them in isolation from other social influences of behavior yields less predictive power" was referred to reference [20].


"Thus, researchers have suggested extending the model by incorporating other social factors that influence preventive behaviors". Consider referencing this sentence to show at least two studies.

Response: We added two references [20, 21] to support this opinion as your suggestion.