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)

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“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-18-03583R2) 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:
Garumma Tolu Feyissa (Reviewer 3): This is an important article with methodological contributions and also has important implications for public health policy and practice. However, there are minor amendments and clarifications needed before publication. The authors described HIV prevention services as one of their study variables and used three items to measure it. However, they did not describe how they integrated it into their analysis. Condom use was measured using likert scale. But later the authors write ‘The proportion of consistent condom use among MSM was 52.05%.’ Can they justify the reason for discrepancy in measurement and report? This is critical as conclusion was made based on this finding.

Response: Thank you for your positive comments. We used three items to measure “HIV prevention services”. Participants responding with “Yes” to any of these three items were defined as receiving the HIV prevention services. We added “Responses with “Yes” to any of these questions indicated receiving the HIV prevention services” in the end of the third paragraph on Page 5.
Condom use was measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (never) to 5 (always). A higher score indicated stronger commitment to HIV-preventive behaviors. Response with 5 (always) was defined as consistent condom use. The frequency of condom use when having anal sex during the last 6 months was 4.09±1.19 (presented in the second paragraph on Page 8). “The frequency of condom use” rather than “consistent condom use” was used as the construct “HIV preventive behavior” in IMB model. Thus we added “Response with 5 (always) was defined as consistent condom use” in the end of the seventh paragraph on Page 5, and revised “consistent condom use” to “condom use” in Table 2 and Table 3.

Madhu Dhital, M.Sc in Public Health (Reviewer 4): Comments were in the file of PUBH-D-18-03583R2.pdf.

Response: Thank you for your comments. We revised the manuscript as your suggestions as follow.

Section Background

We added “infection” in the second sentence of Paragraph 1 on Page 3. We revised the sentence “High HIV prevalence among MSM is closely associated with unprotected anal intercourse (UAI), which is a common high-risk behavior and reason for HIV infection [5]” to “Unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) is a common high-risk behavior and reason for HIV infection among MSM [5]” in Line 8 of Paragraph 1 on Page 3.

We added “new” and “/or” in the first sentence of Paragraph 2 on Page 3.

We added “this” in the last sentence of Paragraph 2 on Page 4.

Section Methods

We revised “VCT” to “voluntary counseling and testing” in the third sentence of Paragraph 3 on Page 5.

Regarding the comments “Please write full form of CSA and IPV at first time” on Page 5 and Page 6, we didn't make revisions because the child sexual abuse (CSA) and intimate partner violence (IPV) were presented at first use in the Line 21 of Paragraph 1 on Page 4.

Section Discussion

We revised “(needle-sharing drug abuse/unsafe sex, etc.)?” to “(needle-sharing, drug abuse, unsafe sex, etc.)” as your suggestions in the second sentence of Paragraph 5 on Page 9.