Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in heterosexual inexperience among young adults in Japan: analysis of national
surveys, 1987-2015

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Catherine Mercer

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for your invitation to re-review this paper, which I read with interest. The authors
have done a good job revising their paper in line with my suggestions (and made it very easy for
me to understand and find the changes that they had made for which I thank them).

Four (minor) issues remain to be addressed in my opinion:

1. It is not common practice to report a change, either an increase or a decrease, unless there
   is statistical evidence to support this. As such, the authors should remove such statements
   (e.g. in the Abstract: "Among those aged 30-34 years, the prevalence increased between
1987 and 2015: from 6.2% to 11.9% for women (p for trends, ≥0.398) and from 8.8% to
12.7% for men (p for trends, ≥0.248)."

2. Abstract conclusion: it is not clear how the sentence "Heterosexual intercourse is the
   main method of human reproduction, and sexual health and satisfaction are important for
   wellbeing" relates to the results of this particular study. The authors should either better
   integrate it or remove it. (Personally I think it's redundant in line with the paper’s main
   Conclusion statement).

3. Reporting of p-values: it is conventional to report exact p-values as (e.g.) "p=0.012" else
   if a particular threshold is used to denote statistical significance then this can be used
   throughout (e.g.) p<0.01 or p<0.05. Also (throughout) note that where a p-value is cited
   corresponding to one trend then 'p-value' (singular not plural) should be used (cf. "p-
   values for trend ≤0.012".

4. Check the wording of the addition to the text: "In total, 3.26 million women and 3.80
   million men, aged 18-39 years, were estimated to have no heterosexual experience in
2010. (Table 1)" - should this actually be "...were estimated in 2010 to have never had
heterosexual experience"?

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.

No

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

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