Author’s response to reviews

Title: The characteristics of mixing patterns of sexual dyads and factors correlated with condomless anal intercourse among men who have sex with men in Guangzhou, China

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Response to Reviewer 3

1. Introduction section, line 52-53, page 3: "the newly diagnosed HIV infection rate among MSM increased from 0.9% in 2003 to 7.75% in 2014" has been revised as “the HIV prevalence over the years among MSM increased from 0.9% in 2003 to 7.75% in 2014”;

2. Method section, line 104, page 6: “incidence rate” has been changed as “prevalence”;

3. Method section, PrEP using is not available through any legal way in Guangzhou during our investigation, so we did not collection the information about PrEP using;

4. Method section, Table 4, page 16: We have adjusted our results on the table 4, we used code of PROC GENMOD to analysis data, and the ID number of participants as repeated subject to account for the correlation clusters, we calculated the AORs from the value of estimate; in this study, the information of the sexual partners nominated by the same participant are clustered, but the information was collected at one time point rather than multiple time points, so we did not use Generalized Linear Model to analyze the data.
5. Results section, line 219-220, page 12, we have added an example in the text to help understanding the percentages presented in Table 2, additionally, we have added footnotes at the bottom of Table 2 to illustrate the percentage and the define of UCAI;

6. Results section, Table 2, line 477, page 27, we have added footnotes at the bottom of Table 2 to illustrate the define of UCAI;

7. Results section, for Table 3, we used age, education and marital status of participants and respondents separately; for Table 4, we used multiple variable analyses, except of the variable list on the table 4, we have adjusted age, education and marital status of participants and their partners;

8. Results section, Table 3, page 14, we have changed 'relative risk' as “odds ratio”;

9. Results section, Table 3, page 14, we have added the confidence intervals to the results in Table 3;

10. Results section: dear reviewer, many thanks for your reminding, we did not report how the probability of CAI varies according to respondent characteristics, the reason is: the aim of this study is to explore the characteristics of mixing patterns of sexual dyads and factors correlated with CAI among MSM, most previous studies have focused on the demographic characteristics of sexual partners and their relationship to CAI among MSM; however, the CAI risk factors are multidimensional, these studies did not present the social communication characteristics and their relationship to CAI. As you said, the respondent characteristics could be important associated with CAI, so in our analyses model, we have put these factors into the model to adjust (Table4).

11. Results section, line 258, and Table 4, page 15-16, we have changed “Ways of making friends” as “Method of meeting sexual partners”;

12. Discussion section, line 341-342, page 19, we have added the third limitation as “the sample size of older men (>=41) is smaller, and so lack of statistical significance for comparisons could just be due to lack of power”; 

13. Declarations section, line 354-361, page 20-21, we have rearranged the part of Ethics approval and consent to participate to the declarations section.

14. All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and its supplementary information files.