Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and correlates of sexual intercourse among sexually active in-school adolescents: an analysis of five sub-Sahara African countries for the adolescent’s sexual health policy implications

Version: 0 Date: 11 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Melissa Sutherland

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for this opportunity to review for BMC Public Health. Research examining multiple risk factors among SSA adolescents is an important area of inquiry given the rates of HIV and STIs in this population. While I believe the manuscript has merit, I have several suggestions for improving the manuscript.

1- Background section needs more development. For example, page 4, line 43 paragraph, expand on the "different studies". What did the different studies find? Please make sure the significance of this analysis is clear.

2- page 8, please check punctuation. The authors are using lists and the punctuation is not correct. Also check the use of quotes.

3- the analysis was to inform health policy, please expand your discussion on this aspect of the paper. How will these findings be used for prevention strategies?

4-page 13, the authors mention cultural values. Please expand on this paragraph. The authors mention similarities, what are these? Why does Tanzania have lower rates of sexual activity among their youth?

5- page 14, line 21. There have been many studies in the US examining clusters of risk behaviors in youth. What did these studies find? And why is this an important issue to examine in SSA? Gets to the significance of your study.

5- the entire paper needs to be proof-read carefully. Many awkward sentences. Examples--- p. 1, line 53; page 2, line 27; page 2, line 40; page 3, line 36; page 3, line 51....page 9, line 38 could be rewritten to be more succinct. Page 13, line 9. There are more page #s and areas of the paper that need editing than those I have just listed.

6- decimals are not appearing correctly in my copy of the manuscript

Thank you again for this opportunity to review.
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.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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