Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and correlates of contraceptive use among female adolescents in Ghana

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2015

Reviewer: Wendy Heywood

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript examined correlates of contraceptive use among women aged 15 to 19 years in Ghana. The manuscript did a good job describing why this topic is important, why it is particularly important to study contraceptive use among female adolescents in Ghana and the potential implications of the findings.

Major compulsory revisions

1. My main comment has to do with the structure of the results section. The article would flow better if table 1 and the description of table 1 only reported on participant characteristics (frequency and precent). Furthermore, the prevalence data should be moved to table 2 as this is what the logistic regression examined (i.e. if the prevalence of contraceptive use was different according to a variety of characteristics). At the moment the information is essentially presented twice. For example, the first paragraph of the results states “The prevalence of contraceptive use was higher among female adolescents aged 18 to 19 (31.4%) than female adolescents aged 15 to 17 (9.2%).” While the first paragraph under the section Correlates of female adolescent contraceptive use states “the odds of contraceptive use were 3.49 times higher for female adolescents aged 18 to 19 compared to female adolescents aged 15 to 17.”

2. Table 2. The confidence intervals for level of education are extremely wide. This is due to small cell size in the reference category (Only 3.5% of women with no education (n=87) reported contraceptive use. By my calculations only about three women in this category reported contraceptive use.) Please consider 1) combining no education and primary education categories or 2) changing the reference category and not placing too much importance on the findings in relation to no education as you don’t quite have enough data to produce a stable estimate.

3. The manuscript would also benefit from editing and proof reading. Although the language, in general, does not prevent the reader from understanding the content, certain phrases are used in the wrong context, there are a few minor spelling mistakes/errors (e.g. second paragraph of the results there is an s before highest), the use of tense is not always consistent (e.g. in the method) and there are some places that would benefit from tightening or removal of unnecessary words (e.g. phrases such as Besides or In effect can be removed from the beginning of sentences).
Minor essential revisions

Methods
4. Please include the number of women aged 15-19 years in the final sample.
5. After the sentence “The dependent (outcome) variable for the study is current contraceptive use including both traditional and modern methods” Please include a list of the specific types of contraception measured in this study.
6. In the final sentence of the method please change “STATA” to “Stata” and include a citation. Please see http://www.stata.com/support/faqs/resources/citing-software-documentation-faqs/ 

Results
7. At the start of the results please include the overall prevalence of contraceptive use in the sample of adolescent women aged 15 to 19. And if possible include a comment about the most common type of contraceptive used in the sample.
8. Can you please specify if the sample consisted of all women aged 15 to 19 years or only sexually active women aged 15 to 19 years? If all women are included my guess is that those who have not had sex were coded as not using contraception?
9. In the second sentence of the results please change aged 18 to 18 to aged 18 to 19.

Conclusions
10. A sentence in the conclusion states “Consequently, pragmatic adolescent and reproductive health programmes can target younger female adolescents aged 15 and below…” This study however, examined women aged 15 to 19 years. Perhaps rephrase to match what the study found.

References
11. Reference 19. Please bold the title of this article to be consistent with other journal article references.

Tables
12. Table 2. Consider renaming table “Logistic regression of correlates of female adolescents contraceptive use”
13. Table 2. Consider adding a table note such as “Adjusted for all other variables in the model”.
14. Table 2. Please remove “Level of education” from the bottom of the table.

Discretionary revisions
15. Table 2. Consider rounding 95% Conf. Interval to 2 decimal places to be consistent with the odds ratio
16. Table 2. Consider removing the p-value column as this information is already
conveyed with the asterisks next to the odds ratios.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests