Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection among women from quilombo communities in Northeastern Brazil

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Version: 1 Date: 21 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-chief

BMC Women's Health

We would like to thank you about the reviewer’s suggestions

In order to respond the questions
Reviewer reports:

Peizhong Peter Wang (Reviewer 1): I am not quite familiar with many technical details presented in the paper. Overall this was a well-planned and executed study. The manuscript is of a heavy information load and the length can be trimmed to accommodate international readers.

1) Page 7: Detection of HPV: This section can be greatly reduced.
Response: This section was greatly reduced.

2) Page 7: Statistical analysis: It was not clear why multivariate statistical analyses were not performed.
Response: As in the univariate analysis, only the variables: origin and number of partners were associated with the occurrence of HPV in quilombola women, we do not consider it necessary to proceed with the multivariate analysis.

3) Page 7: Ethical aspects: 1-2 sentences should be sufficient.
Response: This section was greatly reduced.

4) Page 10, Results: This section has too many unnecessary details. There is no need to repeat what has been clearly shown in the tables.
Response: This section was greatly reduced.

5) There seems to be a lot of discussion around the findings concerning the group less than 30 years of age. It makes sense that they have a high prevalence of HPV positivity; this is typically due to increased sexual activity, more partners, etc. There was little discussion on the persistence of the infections, I know it isn't a longitudinal study, but it is important to note the recommendations for higher age minimums for screening programs, due to the persistence of HPV infections. I am a little concerned about the amount of discussion about the findings of this lower age groupings, and I do wonder what their bottom line recommendation/ conclusion is. It has been widely established that HPV positivity will be high in that group, which is fine for the majority, because they are able to clear these infections. Those that persist as women age become the real worry.
Response: Thank you for your comment.
6) Tables: The number of tables should be reduced. This can be done by reducing the number of categories under some variables, education (elementary or lower, high school or higher), origin (can be taken off), marital status (married, others), or by combing tables.

Response: We excluded 1 table and reduced some information of the others.

Marcia Edilaine Lopes Consolaro (Reviewer 2): Dear Editor

I thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript BMWH-D-16-00309 (Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection among women from quilombo communities in Northeastern Brazil).

The manuscript is original, well-written and well-founded.

The population studied (indigenous) is very important in the area of cervical cancer, since the data generated possibly help in the elucidation of cervical carcinogenesis in different population niches.

My only suggestion is that English is corrected by a native person because the quality is poor.

Response: This English section was greatly corrected