Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationship between depression and sexual health service utilization among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.

Version: 0 Date: 04 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Adedotun Ogunbajo

Reviewer's report:

Introduction

The introduction section is lacking in mental health data specific to Cote D'Ivoire and that data might help the reader better conceptualize the findings in terms of possible disparities among MSM. If these data aren't available, perhaps you could present statistics from comparable countries in the West African region.

It might be helpful to provide the apriori hypothesis that guided your data analysis and helped framed how you decided which variable would be independent and which would be the dependent variable.

Methods

Please provide more information about procedures around data collection from participants (brief step by step process) or reference paper that may have more detailed information about procedural data collection protocol for the current study. This might help other researchers who might attempt to undertake a similar study in the future.

Page 4 (Stigma section): Was a standardized scale utilized to measure stigma or did you interpedently create your own questions to assess experiences of stigma? Please make this clear in your write-up.

Results

Page 7: Line 14-17: Move "Finally, participants who sought sexual health care services most, 64.0% (830/1297) went to non-governmental facilities, while 13.8 %(179/1297) went to either private or public facilities, but 22.1 %(288/1297) had not sought sexual health care services prior" to line 39-40 page 6 after "The prevalence of health care utilization in the last 12 months was 60.5% (787/1301)". Try as much as possible to present results thematically in the same paragraphs.
Additionally, be sure to re-check the calculation of the proportions presented in the results section. For example, line 11 of page 7 states, "The percentage of MSM engaged in alcohol consumption was 73.5% (1056/1301)". 1056/1301 is actually 81.2% NOT 73.5%. Additionally, stating "with 18.8% (245/1301) reporting no alcohol consumption" is not necessary as we are mostly concerned with those who reported alcohol consumption and giving the percentage of those who didn't report alcohol use does not contribute any important information.

Discussion

The beginning of the second sentence of the discussion section should be reworded to read more coherently. Starting a sentence with "and" is not good practice.

While the discussion section is comprehensive and detailed, it appears to be written with the presumption that sexual health seeking is a high priority in the population surveyed. I believe there should be a few sentences about competing priorities/problems such as lack of economic opportunities/jobs, housing, and other basic amenities that might have higher priority in these group and simultaneously impact their ability to seek out sexual health services.

Tables

There appears to be a discrepancy crude and RDS adjusted frequencies presented in the first table for place of residency variable. This might be a typo or error in analysis, in any case, the author should proofread all calculation to ensure accuracy and completeness.

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.

Unable to assess

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

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

Acceptable

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