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: 17 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Zubairu Iliyasu

Reviewer's report:

Introduction

Line 12 and 13, the authors stated 'In Cote d'Ivoire specifically, HIV prevalence is estimated at 3.7%[17] among all reproductive age adults, but much higher among MSM [17].' Please specify the HIV prevalence among MSM, since they are the focus of this study.

Also at the end of the introduction, please state the utility of this research beyond Cote d'Ivoire. Why should others outside of Cote d'Ivoire be interested in this study

Methods:

In lines 32-36, the authors indicated eligibility criteria. Where there sub-groups of MSM excluded from this study?

In lines 45-46, the authors described the study instrument. Can they provide references for the source(s) of instruments or questions for stigma and utilization of health services. Psychometrics of the tools and how validity and reliability were ascertained?

Statistical analyses

Let the authors be explicit about how variables were included/excluded from the two logistic regression models.

Results

Lines 30 to 31: Why are the authors reporting both summary indices for normally distributed (mean and standard deviation) and skewed distribution (median and interquartile range) for the participants' age?
Line 17 to 19. The proportion that reported condom use. Was this qualified further as consistent use or occasional use?

Replace 30+ with ≥30 if that is what is implied here. Also replace less than 20 with symbol form <20 years.

Discussion

I miss a clear recommendation to policy makers, programmers and communities based on the study findings.

Tables

Table 2-Re-format the table as the last two variables are not in alignment with the rest of the table

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.

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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