Author’s response to reviews

Title: Adolescent deliveries in Rural Cameroon: an 8-year trend, prevalence and adverse maternofoetal outcomes

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Feedback to Reproductive Health REPH-D-17-00094R1 (Adolescent deliveries in rural Cameroon – an eight year trend, prevalence and adverse maternofoetal outcomes)

Page 1:
Title
No comments

Page 2:
Abstract

Reviewers’ comment 1: Line 17: Replace the word its with the word their.
Authors’ response 1: Thank you. We have corrected.

Reviewers’ comment 2: Lines 56-57: Provide some data to back up the statement comparing married and single adolescents.
Authors’ response 2: Thank you for your comment. We have provided data supporting the statement that we noted no difference in adverse maternal and foetal outcomes between married and single adolescents.

Action: Abstract; result section; line 8 – 12 now reads: “Married adolescents and their babies were as likely to develop the complications of adolescent delivery such as second-fourth degree perineal tears (OR = 0.8; 95% CI = 0.4 – 1.6; p = 0.456), low birthweight (OR = 2.1; 95% CI =
0.9 – 4.7; p = 0.070) and fifth minute neonatal asphyxia (OR = 0.9; 95% CI = 0.4 – 2.0; p = 0.832) as single adolescents and their babies.”

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Plan English summary

Reviewer’s comment 3: Line 25: Delete the phrase ‘is no different as it’.
Authors’ response 3: Thank you, we have deleted.

Reviewer’s comment 4: Line 28: If you mean Cameroon in the sentence ‘Most studies….semi-urban areas’, please say so.
Authors’ response 4: Thank you. We were referring to Cameroon in the sentence.

Action: Plain English summary; line 5 now reads: “Most studies on adolescent deliveries in Cameroon have been conducted either in urban or semi-urban areas.”

Reviewer’s comment 5: Line 50: Replace the word decrease with the word decreased.
Authors’ response 5: Thank you. We have corrected.

Reviewer’s comment 6: Lines 58-59. Provide some data to back up the statement comparing married and single adolescents.
Authors’ response 6: Thank you for your comment. We have provided data supporting the statement that we observed no difference in adverse maternal and foetal outcomes between married and single adolescents.

Action: Plain English summary; paragraph 3; line 7 now reads: “Finally, married adolescents and their babies were as likely to develop the complications of adolescent delivery such as second-fourth degree perineal tears, low birthweight and birth asphyxia at the fifth minute of life as single adolescents and their babies.”

Page 4:
Reviewer’s comment 7: Line 10: Please consider saying that in addition to the right policies, we need them to be applied.

Authors’ response 7: Thank you for your suggestion. It has been implemented accordingly.

Action: Plain English summary; paragraph 4; line 2 now reads: “Even though, this community is experiencing a downward trend in the prevalence of adolescent deliveries, there is a dire need not only to reinforce the existing government-based public health policies to target the key indicators of adolescent pregnancy in Cameroon, but also to effectively apply them.”

Reviewer’s comment 8: Line 22: Replace the phrase ‘who become…adulthood’ with the phrase ‘the age of 20’.

Authors’ response 8: Thank you. We have corrected.

Reviewer’s comment 9: Line 26: Reference 1 is a working paper from Malaysia. It is not appropriate here.

Authors’ response 9: Thank you. Reference 1 has been taken off.


Authors’ response 10: Thank you for your suggestion. Reference 2 has been substituted with reference 3.

Reviewer’s comment 11: Line 43: Complete reference 6. In reference 7 is the spelling of the district correct?

Authors’ response 11: Thank you. We have completed reference 6 and the spelling of district in reference 7 is correct.

Page 5:
No comments.

Page 6
Reviewer’s comment 12: Line 14: Replace outcome with outcomes.
Authors’ response 12: Thank you. We have corrected.

Reviewer’s comment 13: Line 29: Replace use with used.
Authors’ response 13: Thank you. We have corrected.

Reviewer’s comment 14: Line 31: Use upper case for the word Odd’s. Replace the word was with the word were.
Authors’ response 14: Thank you. We have corrected.

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Reviewer’s comment 15: Lines 16-24: I am not clear what you mean by 24.2% of 240 etc.. Could you please explain what is the numerator and what is the denominator here.
Authors’ response 15: Thank you for your question. Here we report the annual variations in the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy alongside a p-value for this variation. For example, 24.2% of 240 in 2009 refers to a prevalence of adolescent pregnancy of 24.2% of 240 deliveries conducted in 2009. We admit this paragraph was obscure. The paragraph has been rewritten to improve clarity.

Action: Result section; Paragraph 3 now reads: “We noticed a significant downward trend in the annual prevalence of adolescent deliveries (from a prevalence of 24.2% [58/240] in the year 2009 to 15.9% [32/201] in 2016; p = 0.05) and neonatal asphyxia at fifth minute of life among babies of adolescent mothers (from a prevalence of 8.3% [5/60] in the year 2009 to 3.2% [1/31] in 2016; p = 0.04) over the 8 years period, figure 1. However, we observed no significant trend in the prevalence of the following adverse outcomes of adolescent deliveries: LBW (p = 0.61) and second – fourth perineal tear (p = 0.35).”

For example, 24.2% (58/240) in the year refers to a prevalence of 24.2%, and 58 adolescent deliveries (numerator) were conducted in the year 2009 out of a total of 240 deliveries (denominator).
Reviewer’s comment 16: Line 13: References 7 and 8 relate to Cameroon and are inappropriate here.

Authors’ response 16: Thank you there references have been replaced by


Reviewer’s comment 17: Line 53: Reference 19 is not complete.

Authors’ response 17: Thank you. We have corrected accordingly.

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Reviewer’s comment 18: Line 10: You study did not prove or disprove the hypothesis about the pituitary-bone maturation pathway. It merely confirmed that adolescent pregnancies do not tend to continue beyond term. Please correct your statement accordingly.

Authors’ response 18: Thank you for the clarification. We have corrected accordingly.

Action: Discussion; paragraph 4; line 7 now reads, “Nevertheless, our study, among others [6,7,10,19], showed that adolescent pregnancies are unlikely to continue beyond term.”

Page 9

Reviewer’s comment 19: Line 31: Delete the word ‘a’ before the word second.

Authors’ response 19: Thank you. The letter has been deleted.

Reviewer’s comment 20: Line 41: Write the full form of a number when using single digits.

Authors’ response 20: Thank you. We have corrected throughout.