Reviewer’s report

Title: Reported oral and anal sex among adolescents and adults reporting heterosexual sex in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Jami Leichliter

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript reviews literature for an important issue in STI/HIV prevention - oral and anal sex among heterosexuals - in sub-Saharan Africa.

Page 3, lines 29-30: consider adding "the prevalence of" prior to transmission routes

The data are a bit old as the end date of the search was August 2015. I would recommend adding this as a limitation. Newer studies may add to or change the findings.

Page 5, lines 53-54: consider adding "one author" before (IMB) as this is the first time you are citing author initials.

The articles were rated for quality; however, when presenting the results, the quality of articles is only included in a few figures. This is a major limitation to the review given that more than half of studies were of low quality. For secondary findings, I recommend excluding studies that are not of moderate or high quality presenting these results in a way to separate the groups (high quality/low quality).

The key findings are all in supplementary materials (e.g., prevalence of the behaviors of interest). Whether they remain as figures or become tables, key findings (Suppl Figures 4 and 8) really should be in the main paper. Additional findings can remain in the supplementary materials. If the authors eliminated the low quality studies after showing them in the overall prevalence graph (e.g., Suppl Figures 4 and 8), it would significantly streamline the presentation of results.

In the methods, there is scant information on the analysis of data from the qualitative studies. Please add this information.

It may improve flow of the entire paper if Tables 2 and 3 were moved to the supplementary materials.

For the information on insertive or receptive anal sex (page 11, lines 45-48), are you referring to results by gender? If so, it would be better to use "male" and "female" given that this review excluded MSM.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal