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: 04 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Grace Reynolds

Reviewer's report:

This is an important area of research and the authors have done an exceptionally detailed meta-analytic review of the literature on oral and anal sex in various sub-groups in Sub-Saharan Africa. Limitations are carefully listed and acknowledged. The Plain English Summary needs some revising, especially in the use of "normal sex". It might be preferable to use "hetero-normative" or other phrase to indicate that, in this context, "normal" sex is referring to heterosexual norms. Clearly in men who have sex with men (MSM) anal and oral sex are "normal" in the sense of being prevalent. Acknowledging the hetero-normative natural of the acts is preferable to the bias term "normal." Other areas where this plain English summary needs revision are the reference to "vagina" sex (should be vaginal sex), and the final sentence which is a long, run-on sentence. There probably needs to be at least one additional paragraph in the conclusion section concerning prevention versus detection of the types of STIs associated with oral and anal sex. Even in the United States, sexually transmitted infections of the throat and anus/rectum are not routinely screened for. Current screenings for these types of STIs in Sub-Saharan African should be noted (how prevalent?) and if they are rare or only undertaken in very high-risk populations, this would make the prevention argument that much stronger.

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