Author’s response to reviews

Title: Extent of induced abortions and occurrence of complications in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Response to Reviewers

Reviewer #1:

Major comments

Overall, a Background section needs to pull the reader into the story…

Response: We added explanations to improve this section

A few questions/challenges remain with the methods section

1. Comment 1: Efforts have been made by authors to clarify the Sampling section. However, it remains unclear how or if authors used both respondent-driven sampling and the random sampling strategy, as you would typically use one or the other

Questions a, b, c, and d

Response: We added explanations

Minor comments:

Abstract:
1. The original version of the plain English summary, naming "confidents" instead of "all women of childbearing age" is clearer. However, it calls into question the denominator of the abortion rate. Is it 1000 women of childbearing age in DRC? Kinshasa?

Response: We added explanations “in Kinshasa”

2. The key word "extent" is not in the MeSH browser and therefore not recognized as a key word?

Response: We have now used the key word “incidence”

3. The authors have done a good job adding limitations. However, social desirability bias isn't addressed. You only know the information respondents "could" and were willing to report on their confidents. Suggest adding the phrase "and were willing to report" to limitations.

Response: We added it.

Background:
Questions 1 and 2
Responses: we cited Guttmacher for the AICM and Clementine Rossier and Guttmacher for ATPR

Methods:
Question 1 to question 12
Responses: We added explanations

Results:
Questions 1, 3, and 4
Responses: We added explanations

Discussion:
Question 1
Responses: We added explanations and deleted the sentence “The practice of self-induced abortion differentiates Kinshasa from countries such as Nigeria and Ethiopia, where most
induced abortions are performed by doctors and nurses [23, 24, 25], and for the most part in India and Pakistan, such procedures are not self-induced but carried out by unskilled persons [26, 27].”

Question 2 and 3
Response: We corrected

Question 4
Responses: We deleted the sentence

Question 5, 6, 7 and 8
Responses: We corrected and added the limitation

Conclusions:
Responses: We tried to improve

Tables
Responses: We added all this information