Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and associated factors among the University of Gondar students, northwest Ethiopia. A cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Zoe Heins

Reviewer's report:

One major success of this study is the large sample size and the high response rate. There were also a number of important variables included which made it possible to capture the many diverse experiences of students at the university.

You assert in the introduction and in the discussion that students may be more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior as a result of being out from under the care of their families, but this statement hasn't been referenced anywhere, nor is it supported by your data. If this is just a theory, it may be better to make sure that is clearly stated.

Odds ratios were used to compare the association of STI in the last 12 months with potential risk factors. The narrative states that bivariate and multivariate logistic regressions were done with the variables, but no regression statistics are ever shown or discussed (aside from the odds ratios). Likewise, it is not stated which variables were included in the multivariate model. Table 4 is titled, "Bivariate and Multivariable logistic regression analysis for factors associated with sexually transmitted infections among University of Gondar students, Northwest Ethiopia, 2016" but the only statistics included in the table are odds ratios, adjusted odds ratios, and confidence intervals. This would be a good place to include some other regression statistics.

The conclusion is a bit weak. It may be useful to make some recommendations based on your findings. For instance, you found that people with more knowledge of STIs had a lower risk of contracting an STI. Recommending more sexual education for students at the university would be useful and may help to strengthen your conclusion.

I think this paper is really useful for the university and for other universities with similar populations. Your data gives universities a window into the lives of their students, and shows areas where universities could intervene to help reduce the burden of STIs on the student population.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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