Reviewer’s report

Title: Differentials in Modern Contraceptive Method Use by Food Security status among married women of reproductive age in Wolaita Zone, South Ethiopia

Version: 2
Date: 11 March 2015

Reviewer: Elizabeth Racine

Reviewer’s report:

General impressions: This is an interesting study. My primary concern is regarding the methods and analysis. In the current form it is not ready for publication.

Methods:

Please list out each variable considered in the analysis, how it was coded, and justification for why it was included.

In the Measurement section: the authors use the term “modern contraception” repeatedly yet there is no description of what modern contraceptive methods are available or typically used in Ethiopia. In the introduction section please describe the modern contraceptive methods are available or typically used in Ethiopia.

In the Measurement section where the text says “households were classified into two groups based on overall distribution of the HFIAS in the sample” ---please explain this in more detail—was the cut point based on the mean?

In the Data Analysis section where the authors mention the data cleaning please explain the process for data entry---was the data entered by one person? Was there double entry? Also explain the data cleaning.

Ethical Considerations:

Were participants given any incentives to participate in the study?

Results:

In the results section the authors indicate there was a 100% response rate. Please explain the high response rate---this is unheard of in US research is this typical in Ethiopian research?

On page 6 there are a number of results listed that were not mentioned in the methods. Make sure all variables are described in the methods and listed in the tables.

I have an analytic concern regarding those that either do not use modern family planning because of having a need for more children or religious prohibition. I won’t expect those women to use modern contraceptives. But it doesn’t look like you controlled for this or stratified by this---this is also not presented in the tables.

Discussion:

Please discuss the barriers to modern contraception methods
Please add a strengths and limitations section

I don’t see a control variable for poverty. Do you think food insecurity was a proxy for poverty? If so, please describe the extent to which food insecurity may be a confounder for income.

If you have information on income or assets please consider controlling for that.

Tables:

In the tables please indicate the sample number in each of the columns ---Food Secure, Food Insecure, Total.

General Notes:

Please make sure all acronyms are written out the first time they are used in the paper.

Please review the paper carefully for grammar and proper verb tense.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’