Author’s response to reviews


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Version: 4 Date: 10 Apr 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

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10th April, 2017

The Editor
Achieves of Public Health

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE-SUBMISSION OF A REVISED MANUSCRIPT (AOPH-D-16-00104R4)
I herein resubmit our revised manuscript on "Evaluation of Immunization Coverage and its associated factors among children 12-23 months of age in Techiman Municipal, Ghana".

We are particularly grateful to both the Editor and Reviewers. Your comments have been very helpful and it has greatly improved the quality of the manuscript. In addition, we have specifically addressed each of the comments/suggestions from the Editor and Reviewers in the revised manuscript. We have also submitted the revised manuscript with track changes to facilitate the review process.

General Comments from Editor:

Although, it is of interest, we are unable to consider it for publication in its current form. The reviewers have raised a number of points which we believe would improve the manuscript and may allow a revised version to be published in Archives of Public Health.

Response from Authors:

We have revised our manuscript to conform to the journal style from the previous form. We have done all the necessary changes. In addition, language review has been done. All the track changes are maintained for easy verification.

Reviewer reports:

Abstract:

Methods: 1 …while bivariate and multivariate regression analysis conducted using 15 Stata 12.1 version to determined immunization status and its predictors. Change to … while bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis conducted using Stata 12.1 version to estimate the OR of not being fully immunized.
Response from Authors:

The changes have been made. For specific, see page 2, lines 14-15.

Results: 1. ..... Using multivariate analysis, we found the following as predictors of child immunization status: age of respondent (AOR=0.15, 95%CI=0.05-0.87 and P=0.035), change to: ....In the multivariate analysis, the following determinants were significantly associated with the likelihood of being not fully vaccinated (Odds Ratio (AOR) larger than 1): age of the mother/caregiver 40-49 years (AOR=0.15, 95%CI=0.05-0.87) compared to less than 20 years; being married (AOR=0.29, 95%CI=0.13-0.68), ethnicity (compared to the main ethnic group Akan: Frafra (AOR=4.71, 95%CI=146-15.18) and Kusaasi (AOR=0.09, 95%CI=0.02-0.51), religion (compared to Islam: Christianity AOR=0.17, 95%CI=0.06-0.50), ........... The presentation of the P-value does not have any additional information over and above the 95%CI and should not be presented MAKE THE SAME CHANGES IN THE MAIN TEXT.

Response from Authors:

The changes have been made. For specific, see pages 2 and 3, lines 19-27 and page 218-230.

2. The formulation “were protective against immunization status” and “were risk factors against immunization status” is confusing. You can reformulate as “have a higher likelihood of being fully immunized” and “have a higher likelihood of not being fully immunized” MAKE THE SAME CHANGES IN THE MAIN TEXT as no variable is a risk for child immunization status but a determinant of being not fully immunized (OR larger than 1) or fully immunized.

Response from Authors:

The formulation ‘were protective against immunization status’ have been changed to ‘have a higher likelihood of being fully immunized’ and ‘were risk factors against immunization status’ also changed to ‘have a higher likelihood of not being fully immunized’. For specific see page 3, lines 34-36, and throughout the work.
Main text:

1. Methods: Operational definitions Specify Pentavalent: which vaccines are included?

Response from Authors:

In page 8, lines 145-146, the operational definition of pentavalent has been provided.

2 Methods: Operational definitions Specify the age limit when a child is expected to have received the total of 7 vaccines and 15 doses.

Response from Authors:

In page 8, lines 147-148, the operational definition of pentavalent has been provided.

3 Methods: Data processing and analysis: .... Data was imported into STATA 12.1 for bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis to determine predictors of child immunization status. Change to ......Data was imported into STATA 12.1 for bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis to determine determinants of not-being fully immunized

Response from Authors:

The changes have been made. For specific, see 8, lines 154-155.

4 Results: Description of table 4 can be limited to the multivariate results. There is no added value for presenting the P-values as the 95%CI are given. In the description, the reference category should be given in order to interpret the OR. E.g. Children of older mothers were more likely to be fully immunized, e.g. the AOR was 0.15 (95%CI 0.05-0.87) when the age was 40-49 years compared to less than 20 years. Please correct text in similar way.
Response from Authors:

The corrections have been made. For specific see 11, lines 218-230.

5. Title of manuscript: add year study to the title

Response from Authors:

In the title page, the 2016 has been added to the title of the manuscript.

6. Titles of tables:

Rephrase title Table 1 as “Socio-demographic characteristics of mothers/caregivers, Immunization Coverage Survey, Techiman Municipality, Ghana, 2016”

Response from Authors:

The title of the table has been rephrased. For specific, see page 10, lines 183-184 and page 23, line 486-487.

Rephrase title Table 2 as “Immunization coverage by immunization card and mothers/caregivers recall, Immunization Coverage Survey, Techiman Municipality, Ghana, 2016”

Response from Authors:

The title of the table has been rephrased. For specific, see page 10, lines 195-197 and page 24, line 491-492.

Rephrase title Table 3 as “Reasons for immunization failure as reported by mothers/caregivers, Immunization Coverage Survey, Techiman Municipality, Ghana, 2016”
Response from Authors:

The title of the table has been rephrased. For specific, see page 11, lines 206-207 and page 24, line 495-496.

Rephrase title Table 4 as “Odd ratio (bivariate and multivariate logistic regression) of being not fully vaccinated, Immunization Coverage Survey, Techiman Municipality, Ghana, 2016”

Response from Authors:

The title of the table has been rephrased. For specific, see page 12, lines 252-253 and page 25, line 499-500.

7. In Table 4, it is still unclear what is meant with ! (empty). As for I can make up it are strata that are empty or strata with either 100% not fully or fully examination. If the cell are empty where the OR is not estimated but either goes to infinity (when 100% not fully or zero when 100% fully vaccinated). Please present in table as “-“ and put a § in superscript and explain § in the legend of the table.

Response from Authors:

In table 4, “!(empty)” has been changed to “-“*. ”-“* has been explained in the legend to mean 100% fully immunized for that category.

8. Review language of the entire text: E.g. “The male children were 50.5%” can be rephrased as “50.5% of the children were boys”.

Response from Authors:

“The male children were 50.5%” has been rephrased as “in all, 50.5% of the children were boys”. Similar language corrections have been made and can be seen throughout the work.
With humility, we believe that all the comments have been adequately addressed in our revised manuscript.

Kind regards

Benjamin Baguune

(Corresponding author)