



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_14198
Title of the Manuscript:	Utilization of HIV Testing and Counseling Services by Men in the Bolgatanga Municipality
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	1. This reviewer is used to term "HIV counselling and testing" (HCT) rather than "HIV testing and counselling" (HTC) which the author(s) used in the title and all through the entire manuscript. It is also strange that of the three components of HCT, "pre-test counselling" is not one of them. Some clarifications are needed here. 2. Granted that a multistage sampling method was used to select the participants, this reviewer is of the opinion that the sampling method described in the methodology (250-254) is principally a modified WHO cluster sampling technique. The author(s) should also mention this sampling technique as described. Besides, this WHO cluster sampling method is most appropriate for community-based studies such as this 3. The author(s) should give a clear definition of what constitutes a household (254).	1. "HIV testing and counselling" is used instead of "HIV counselling and testing" because the current testing procedure used by the Ghana Health Service no longer include pre-test counselling. It now involves only testing, post-test counselling and receiving results. The term used in official Ghanaian technical document is "HIV testing and counselling" 2. Some modification has been done in the methodology to include this suggestion. It now reads "A modified World Health Organization (WHO) cluster sampling technique was used to select....". A clear definition of a household has been duly given in the methodology. It reads "For the purpose of this study a household is defined as a person or a group of persons, related or unrelated, who live together in the same house or compound, share the same housekeeping arrangements, and eat together as a unit".
Minor REVISION comments	1. Still in the methodology, the author(s) said they did a simple random sample selection without replacement (245) but later at (263) wrote that some subjects who refused to be interviewed were replaced. Perhaps these are different	1. Yes, those who declined to be interviewed after they were selected were replaced but it was done so by simple random sampling. That part of the statement "without replacement"



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	circumstances. Clarify. 2. Change the phrase “solicit appropriate information” (283) to “elicit appropriate response” 3. “...Table 6 that more salaried workers (15.4%) have ever tested for HIV as against 7.9% of salaried workers...” (416). This is not a true reflection of what the author(s) have in table 6. Please revisit this correct it accordingly. 4. Reference numbers 16 and 27 are incomplete because the pages were not inserted (634 & 663 respectively).	should not have been there. Hence, it has been duly deleted. 2. The phrase “solicit appropriate information” has been substituted with “elicit appropriate information” as suggested. 3. The authors are of the opinion that it may have been an oversight on the part of the reviewer. The authors were comparing the percentage of salaried workers among respondents who have ever undergone testing with the percentage of salaried workers among respondents who have not undergone testing for HIV. The table number has however been changed to Table 4 due to the modifications of the manuscript. 4. The two references have been duly revised and the page numbers inserted.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	This paper appears to have been painstakingly researched and written up. This is commendable. The paper should be published after the few comments above have been addressed. Like most researches, this manuscript has ethical issues but they have been taken care of the ethical clearance duly obtained by the authors before embarking on the research.	We thank you for the commendation and your useful comments. We are convinced that the paper is very much strengthened in terms of quality and content now.