



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_29469
Title of the Manuscript:	Determinants of sexual risk practices and HIV transmission among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria
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.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	1. This study did not assess HIV transmission explicitly. The title of the study "Determinants of sexual risk practices and HIV transmission..." should be modified. 2. The background prevalence of HIV infection among the study population should be stated in the introduction or study population section. 3. A cluster survey method was used. However, the authors did not take into account of the cluster effect in the descriptive and analytic analyses. A "Complex Samples" feature of SPSS should be considered when working with complex sample designs, such as stratified, clustered or multistage sampling. 4. The main outcome of interest of the study was "sexual risk practices", a composite indicator in which the authors established from many variables, i.e., multiple sexual relationships, non-use of condom among multiple sex partners, sexual debut before age 15 or the use of alcohol or recreational drugs before sex. Please specify into a more detail of how "sexual risk practices" was constructed. In addition, it may be more informative if the authors could specify the specific time frame of some relevant variables including condom use and using alcohol or recreation drugs before sex.	The title has been revised to read: Predictors of sexual risk practices among women of childbearing age in sub-urban communities of Rivers State, Nigeria. A design effect for using the cluster sampling technique was factored in the sample size determination by multiplying the sample size by a factor of 2. Methodology modified accordingly This has now been included in the table. It was



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	5. Table 2. should include condom use with casual sexual partners. 6. Please specify the method used to select variables into the multivariate analysis. 7. In Table 5. The variables presented in this table should be more informative. For example, considering using "Single Marital Status AOR 1.71" instead of "Marital status". 8. One of the major concerns of this study is the authors would like to identify factors associated with a very board combination outcome of "sexual risk practices". Therefore we did not know exactly the true effect of the significant variables on the more specific outcomes i.e. multiple sexual relationships, non-use of condom among multiple sex partners, sexual debut before age 15 or the use of alcohol or recreational drugs before sex. This major concern should be justified. This limitation also affects the implication of the study results for designing a more effective and specific public health intervention. Please clarify the ethical issue: The study included some sensitive personal information. The study used only verbal informed consents instead of regular written inform consents. Please justify.	initially omitted from the table because unlike the other sexual risk practices, which had a common denominator of 658 (i.e. total women who have been sexually exposed), condom use had a denominator of 245 (i.e. women who engaged in sexual risk practices). This has also been made clearer in manuscript. Methods used to select variables have been specified. Amendments made as advised. The study aimed to identify the determinants of sexual risk practices among childbearing aged women without any particular focus on specific risk practices. The concern is very valid, however, data was collected using a questionnaire that was uploaded unto mobile data capture devices (smartphones) and fed into a central server. This method made it cumbersome for written consent to be obtained.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	This cross-sectional community survey to address the issue of sexual risk practices among women of childbearing age in Nigeria is somewhat interesting for the readers working with the population in a high prevalence, generalized epidemic of HIV infection. While appreciative of the relatively large sample size, there remains need for additional justification of the methods selected, as well as the novelty of this work. It is hoped that the below comments will be of use to the authors.	Thank you. Comments all noted