Archives of Clinical Infectious Diseases
Volume 18 · Issue 1 · e132178

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Point and Lifetime Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Based on the Definitions of the Iranian Syndrome Surveillance System: A Hospital-Based Survey

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SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
2 Oct 2022	14 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	10.5812/archcid-132178

About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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Contents

1 Original submission Referee 1 2
2 Revision 1 4
Authors' reply to reviewers 5
Reviewer and editor comments 7

1 Original submission

1 comment · 12 Jan 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 12 Jan 2023

Dear authors,
I would like to thank you for the time and effort involved in this study. In my opinion, your manuscript is acceptable after major revisions. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) threaten human health worldwide. So, the topic is important, novel, and within the scope of the journal. However, the manuscript needs some improvement before further consideration. My comments are as follows:
Abstract
1-Please remove the background content and instead mention the importance of STDs.
2-The method should contain the following data: type of study, the place and time of the study, main variables, and data-gathering tool (interview). Please add them.
3-In the results section, the point and lifetime prevalence of STDs should be compared between men and women. You can state comparisons using scientific terminology. For instance, “The lifetime prevalence of STDs was significantly higher in women than in men (81.56% vs. 33.60%, P-value=???).”
4- "Hospital-based" doesn't seem like an appropriate keyword. Please use MeSH terms.
Introduction
5- In the introduction section, the rationale behind the study is well explained, which is appreciated.
Methods
6- My main concerns are focused on the method section. The method should contain the following data: type of study, the place and time of the study, complete inclusion and exclusion criteria, results of the pilot study, how to calculate the final sample size, and main variables based on the Iranian syndromic surveillance system. Please add them to the manuscript.
7- I think “Consecutive Sampling” was appropriate for this study. I could not understand how the researchers used systematic sampling to conduct the study. Was the entire study population available at the same time, providing the basis for using this type of sampling? Please clarify this.
8-Please write more about statistical analysis (how you described the variables, the statistical tests, the software used to process the data, and the level of significance).
9- Did you use the ANOVA test to compare ages in table 3? Considering that your independent variable is binary, an independent-samples t-test seems to be appropriate. Please check it.
Results
10- In the results section, the point and lifetime prevalence of STDs should be compared between men and women. You can state comparisons using scientific terminology. For instance, “The lifetime prevalence of STDs was significantly higher in women than in men (81.56% vs. 33.60%, P-value=???).”
11-Please add the mean difference and 95% confidence interval to table 3.
12-Please write all P-values with three decimal digits.
Discussion
13-Please interpret why the prevalence of STDs was higher in women than in men.
14-I could not understand the sentence below. It should be clarified.
“It seems that the pattern of sexual relations in Iran has changed over the generations”
Ethical issue
15-The ethical ID is probably incorrect. Please check and correct it.
Language
16- The manuscript is poorly written in English. There are numerous grammatical errors that should be corrected. Also, the authors should use medical terminology throughout the text; for example, dysuria

(instead of pain and burning during urinating), frequency (instead of frequent urination), dyspareunia (instead of pain during intercourse), and so on. I strongly recommend consulting an English editor.
Best regards

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Manuscript reference number: . No. A-10-634-1

Title Point and lifetime prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases based on the definitions of the Iranian syndromic surveillance system: A hospital-based survey

Dear Dr. **Masoud Mardani**

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to revise our paper we would like to submit for publication in the International Journal Archives of Clinical Infectious Diseases. We are grateful to the reviewers and the Editors for their constructive and positive comments on our paper. We have addressed each of the comments in our revision, which has improved the article further. Below we detail our changes and respond to each of the comments in turn.

Kind Regard**,**Dr. Masoume Mousavi

Comments from the Editors and Reviewers:

Reviewer

My comments are attached.

Regards

Authors

Thank you for the most important recommendation. We added additional information based on the comments mentioned in the attached file, each part's corrections were done in the article file and can be seen as track changes, and is given in the table below.

Comment of Reviewer 1	Authors
Please remove the background contents and instead mention the importance of the STDs.	1. Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited
The method should contain the following data: type of study, the place and time of the study, main variables, and data gathering tool (interview). Please add them.	1. Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited
In the result section, the point and lifetime prevalence of STDs should be compared between men and women. You can state comparisons with scientific terminology. For instance, "The lifetime prevalence of STDs was significantly higher in women than in men (81.56% vs. 33.60%, P-value=???)."	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
Hospital-based" doesn't seem like an appropriate keyword. Please	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1

use MeSH terms.	
My main concerns are focused on the method section. The method should contain the following data: type of study, the place and time of the study, complete inclusion and exclusion criteria, results of the pilot study, how to calculate the final sample size, and main variables based on the Iranian syndromic surveillance system. Please them to the manuscript.	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
Did you use the ANOVA test to compare ages in table 3? Considering that your independent variable is binary, independent-samples t-test seems to be appropriate. Please check it. *Results*	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
In the result section, the point and lifetime prevalence of STDs should be compared between men and women. You can state comparisons with scientific terminology. For instance, "The lifetime prevalence of STDs was significantly higher in women than in men (81.56% vs. 33.60%, P-value=???)."	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
Please add the mean difference to table 3.	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
Please write all P-values with three decimal digits.	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited .1
Please interpret why the prevalence of STDs was higher in women than in men.	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited -1
I could not understand the sentence below. It should be clarified. *"It seems that the pattern of sexual relations in Iran has changed over the generations"* *Ethical issue*	Thank you for the most important recommendation , Deleted -1
The ethical ID is probably incorrect. Please check and correct it.	Thank you for the most important recommendation ,Edited -1

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.