

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Adolescent and adult first time mothers' health seeking practices during pregnancy and early motherhood in Wakiso district, central Uganda

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 22 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Christina Holub

### **Reviewer's report:**

#### General Comments:

The introduction nicely sets up the importance of understanding first-time adolescent mothers' health seeking behaviors in Uganda. Sampling methods were described well and data quality assurance appears to be well done. The results are clear and straightforward. Some revision and clarification in methods, discussion, conclusion sections can help strengthen the manuscript (detailed below). Overall, I feel this manuscript provides critical information needed for informing potential interventions targeting adolescent mothers and, ultimately, positively influencing maternal and child health in central Uganda.

#### Major Compulsory Revisions:

N/A

#### Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Section on "methods and procedure of data collection" appears to describe more of the training involved for interviewers. More detail is needed describing how actual interviews with participants were conducted, where interviews took place, how long the interviews lasted, etc.
2. I would be cautious in using the term "social support" to describe or classify the challenges faced by adolescents in this particular study, since actual measures/scales do exist for such a construct. If it was used to describe the lack of support adolescent's face from health services and/or health professionals, I would be more specific and revise that wording for purposes of interpretation. When I read the term "social support", I automatically think of one's social network (which may or may not include health professionals) in being able to provide emotional, instrumental, informational, and appraisal support (traditional measures/sub-types of social support).
3. The issue of early sexual education is, of course, important and is worth mentioning; however, closing remarks should primarily focus on implications or conclusions which can be derived from the data/sample, i.e., related to first-time adolescent mothers. The very last two sentences in "Conclusions" seemed to have lost this focus. I would suggest either moving the last two sentences somewhere else or removing all together.

4. Minor grammatical and punctuation errors should be corrected throughout manuscript.

Discretionary Revisions:

5. Be careful not to overly repeat results in the discussion section.

6. The label in the tables next to OR which reads “odds among adolescent mothers are divided by odds among adult mothers” is unnecessary. At first glance, one may think something else is being calculated other than a standard odds ratio.

7. I recommend describing some limitations of the study/data, since it may be helpful to others for improving, if they wish to replicate or conduct a similar study.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.