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Narratives around sexual behaviour and decisions regarding treatment-seeking of adolescent females who contracted a sexually transmitted infection: Birth to Twenty cohort

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Comment number	Specific comment	How addressed or not	Where addressed
Introduction and problem statement	Consider applying theories and frameworks from other disciplines to this work eg medical sociology	My supervisors and I acknowledge the examiner's comment, have reviewed other conceptual frameworks but we feel that the framework selected is justifiable and appropriate and have opted to retain it. However, we have noted in the limitation section that a multidisciplinary focus is needed and that a public health framework is appropriate but not exhaustive and that combining it with a more sociological framework could add value.	Limitations pg 69
	Look at other studies from SA and abroad – particularly Christine Varga on adolescent sexual behaviour using narrative and interview methods	Varga talks about gender roles and their relation to timing of sexual debut as a demonstration of sexuality, reproduction and fertility	1.2.1.1 page 13
Methods	Expand this section	done	Page 32
	Appropriate references	Throughout Methods section	Page 32
	Justification for the choice of methods	done	Page 32
	Include description of participants here rather than in Results	moved	Page 26
	Include details of inclusion/ exclusion criteria and justification of age criteria of the participants	My study was done as part of a follow up clinical study to assess whether the girls who had an STI and been given a letter to seek treatment at the clinic and whether they did so. The inclusion criteria were girls from the Bt20 cohort who had a previous STI at screening in their 17th year and who were available to	Page 27

		come to Bt20 to be interviewed. Exclusion criteria were boys from Bt20. Since the girls are from a birth cohort they were all in year 20 at the time this study was performed.	
Pg 33	Conceptual framework – clarify whether this is a particular framework of the frameworks referred to in the introduction	Reworded: Those in the introduction.	Page 34
	Life History approach – explain	The training included aspects on interviewing techniques and how to take a life history ie starting from the first sexual experience and documenting and prompting on the following sexual partners chronologically. Life histories are oral, autobiographical narratives (Bertaux, 1984) and were used in this research to organize the researchers documentation and act as prompts during the narrative (Haglund, 2004).	Page 33
	Analysis – thematic not mentioned, rather reference made to open coding. Expand this section	Thematic analysis mentioned with reference	Page 36
	How was rigour promoted?	The interviews, transcriptions and coding were all done by one person – the researcher; almost all interviews were done in English.	Page 37
Results	Direct link to Macphail and Campbell's (2001)	Used throughout the report	

	paper "I think condoms are good but, aai, I hate those things" – report would benefit from reference to such work		
Discussion	Too many summaries	Have combined Results and Discussion sections to make more relevant and to avoid repetition	
	Explore in greater depth how patient education could be achieved if individual counselling is not considered feasible?	Added in	Page 65
	Add life-orientation programmes taught in schools to future projects – add to research gaps	Added in	Research gaps
6.8 Researcher's observations	Should show more reflection and exploration throughout report	Noted and added	Page 62, 64, 65
Some general issues	Abstract to include methods: number of girls included in the sample; how were date collected and analysed?	Added: One-on-one narrative interviews were done on 19 girls with the aid of a interview schedule. A life history of their sexual encounters was documented. The interviews were taped, transcribed. Thematic analysis was performed.	Page 5
	IC forms etc to be placed in appendix	Done	
	Check spelling of "behaviour" and "counselling" – sometimes US conventions used	Done	
3.1.1 Study setting	Better to label this "Study population" or "Study sample"	Changed to " Study population" – also changed in Contents	Pages 2 and 27
	Caution against using	Noted	

	judgement statements – reword or take out eg pg 51 and pg 66	reworded	