Reviewer's report

Title: Central and East European migrant men who have sex with men in London: a comparison of recruitment methods

Version: 1 Date: 2 February 2011

Reviewer: William Zule

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Minor essential revisions
1. Additional information about the characteristics of the networks of the RDS seeds/recruits is needed. A central characteristic of RDS is that it allows researchers to generate weights for different characteristics of the population. While the RDS recruitment chains in this study were not long enough to be useful for generating weights, the basic information that is collected in RDS studies could be useful for understanding why it did not work. If these data (e.g. network size, characteristics, etc.) were not collected, it may be more appropriate to refer to the recruitment method as a coupon-based chain referral approach that is similar to RDS instead of as RDS.

If these data were collected it would be useful to include information on the mean number of MSM in London that RDS recruits knew and the mean number of MSM that they knew who were from CEE countries. The percentage of MSM from CEE countries that recruits knew who spoke English and other characteristics that could be used to describe network size and network homophily in terms of language, country of origin etc. It would also be helpful to include any information that was collected from any seeds who returned to get reimbursed for the three participants who were recruited. This would be information such as the characteristics of men who refused to accept coupons or men who accepted coupons but did not redeem them.

Discretionary Revisions
It would be helpful to include a description of any efforts that were made to assure that men in the internet sample were indeed MSM from CEE who lived in the London area at the time that they completed the survey. Since there was no monetary incentive it seems unlikely that they would lie, but it would be useful to report any checks that were included in the online survey. If none were included, then that should be stated that as a limitation.

Additional background information regarding MSM from CEE in London would also be helpful if it exists. For example are migrants from CEE located in specific neighborhoods or are they spread throughout the city? If they are located in specific neighborhoods, do migrants from CEE tend to cluster by country of origin? Are there any gay bars that are favored/frequented by MSM from CEE?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

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.