Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Need on Treatment Utilization for Substance Use and Mental Disorders: Findings from a Population-Based Survey in California

Version: 2 Date: 8 April 2009

Reviewer: Morten Hesse

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
None

Minor compulsory revisions
None

Discretionary revisions:

* Reference 7, page 4: "However, one group that has been identified as heavier users of services is lesbians, gay men, and bisexual individuals" - this appears to include services for substance abuse treatment. Check if true?

Discussion

* The authors may consider discussing the high number of respondents seeking services: is this due to specific methodological aspects of the study (e.g., the wording of the item), or is there something about specific cultural patterns in Northern California that could account for this high proportion? To my recollection, other surveys have suggested that only a minority of those with diagnosable disorders have received services in the past 12 months.

* The authors may consider discussing the relative strengths and limitations in comparison with similar studied that were presented in the introduction, to give us a clearer picture of, how this study has improved our understanding of the research questions.

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 I have no competing interests