Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with sexual venues among HIV-positive methamphetamine-using men who have sex with men: Analysis of baseline data from a behavioral intervention study

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Reviewer: Garrett Prestage

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper dealing with a topical subject in an interesting way. However, there are a few issues (all Minor Essential Revisions) the authors might consider and a few assumptions they might like to address.

1. The authors refer to sexual compulsivity on page 5 (and later). It is used here as a particular measure, and therefore refers to a conceptual framing of the relevant behaviours. However, those same behaviours might also be conceptualised quite differently given a different perspective. At least enclosing the concept in quotes might help.

2. On page 6, para 1, the authors indicate that unprotected oral sex was an inclusion criterion. This seems odd and would presumably have meant that effectively all HIV-positive MSM who had used meth would be included. Perhaps an explanation of the rationale for including oral sex might be useful, but the more important issue is whether there were many in the sample whose only sexual risk behaviour was oral sex.

3. On page 12, the authors discuss the perception of stigma in relation to discomfort with sexuality. Were the men asked about their sexual identity or other measures of being 'out' about their sexuality? If so, were they included in the analysis?

4. On page 13, para 1 of the Conclusions section, the authors argue that 'ways must be found to promote safer sex in public venues'. However, given the data they have presented one is left wondering whether direct safe sex promotion may be less effective than changing the relative isolation and depression of some men.

5. On page 14, final para, the authors suggest further investigation is warranted to determine if attendance at 'risky venues' can be reduced - but is the venues that are risky or the cultures that develop around some venues and the circumstances men find themselves in?

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'