Reviewer's report

Title: Racial/Ethnic and Sexual Behavior Disparities in Rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections, San Francisco, 1999-2008

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Reviewer: Jordi Casabona

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The manuscript Racial/Ethnic and Sexual Behavior Disparities in Rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections, San Francisco, 1999-2008" by Hyman M Scott et al. is a descriptive paper looking at a relevant and pertinent questions, that as the authors stayed in the manuscript have been looked up in several setting and approaches. From a Public Health point of view the contribution of the paper relay in the use of several information sources to better estimates rates of STIs by race/ethnicity. Therefore the methods and the results are of particular interest for EEUU, where there is a wide range of ethnical groups, the epidemic is quite focused among MSM and the information sources used exists in other cities and states othar than SF.

To improve comprehension of the methods, particularly for readers outside States I would suggest to comment further on the exhaustivity of the variable race/ethnicity in the reporting forms of clamydia and gonorrea. in SF. Most of the reported findings relay on this.

Regarding the results, it is interesting the shift from the percentatges of diagnosis made at the STD clinic, to the primary health care sector. It would be nice to have some further comments on the causes and potential effects on the quality of the data. Finally, as the authors stay, it is surprising the lower MSM/non MSM ratio among African American; some hypothesis on this finding could be mentioned. Finally some statistical analysis oon the comparaison of proportions will also add value to the presented data.