Reviewer's report

Title: High risk behavior for HIV transmission among former injecting drug users: a survey from Indonesia

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Reviewer: Don Des Jarlais

Reviewer's report:

This is a strong paper describing risk behaviors among current and former injecting drug users (cIDUs and fIDUs) in Bandung, Indonesia. The information makes an interesting contribution to understanding how HIV may spread beyond IDUs.

There are, however, a number of issues that need to be addressed (major revisions)

1. The authors need to be specific about the instructions to recruit “peers” in the respondent driven sampling. Was a peer someone who was currently using drugs? Had previously used drugs? Or exactly what?

2. It would also help if the authors reported the homophilies for recruiting between cIDUs and fIDUs. This should provide some insight into the social linkages between the two groups.

3. It is not clear whether any of the fIDUs were abstinent during the month prior to the interview.

4. The analyses should include risk factors for HIV risk behaviors among both groups. In particular, was current drug use related to risk behavior? Was risk behavior (negatively) related to risk behavior?

5. Finally, the authors need to discuss the non-representativeness of their fIDU sample. It is likely that there are a number of fIDUs who are not in social networks with cIDUs and thus would not be recruited through respondent driven sampling.

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 I have no competing interests.