Reviewer's report

Title: Sex Partnerships, Health, and Social Risks of Young Men Leaving Jail: Analyzing Data from a Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2010

Reviewer: Sonali Kulkarni

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MINOR REVISION: There is an initial indication of the research question on pages 3-4 but the questions are not clearly posed until page 10. In the meantime, I was reading the first ten pages feeling a little lost. I would recommend making the background more concise and cohesive. Also, including a statement of purpose at the beginning after the abstract would serve to clarify the goals of the piece early on.

MAJOR REVISION: The piece loses focus at times and is therefore a little difficult to read. For example, the discussion section spends a great deal of time discussing what I think are secondary findings (not really part of the original list of outcomes) such as employment, school participation (p 21). While those issues are important, they don’t deserve the amt of space given to them and make the piece seem unfocused (perhaps splitting this into two articles might be one way to proceed). The same is true of the tables which contain much too much information. The intervention recommendations at the end of the piece (pt 24) seem out of place for a research report in a peer-reviewed journal (p 24) and might make more sense as a policy piece.

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.