Reviewer's report

Title: A cross-sectional study of HIV and syphilis infections among male students who have sex with men (MSM) in northeast China: implications for implementing HIV screening and intervention programs

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2011

Reviewer: Lei Gao

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Potential selection bias occurred during subject enrollment, which may influence study results, should be discussed in the text. In addition, potential confounding effect caused by the studied variables should be discussed as well.

2. As the authors mentioned (Discussion section, Para 9), this study did not gather the detailed information on types of illegal drugs used. Please clarify how "illegal drugs" was defined or explained to the study subject in the questionnaire. And in the Results section, Para 3, please add some results on drug use.

3. In this study, HIV/AIDS information obtained through free educational services and materials was found to be negatively associated with HIV prevalence (OR: 0.2; 95% CI: 0.4-1.0). Therefore, it should not be described as a "risk factor" (Abstract and Results sections).

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Please clarify what kind of "stepwise multivariate logistic regression" model was used for data analysis in the Results section (backward or forward?).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.