Reviewer's report

Title: The Intersection Between Sex and Drugs: A Cross-Sectional Study of HIV Prevalence and Social Consequences among the Sexual Partners of Injection Drug Users in Chennai, India

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2010

Reviewer: Monica Ruiz

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Suggested Discretionary Revisions

1. Background section, second paragraph, line 2: the range of estimated number of IDU in India is enormous: 168,000 – 1.1 million. The reason for this huge range should be explained in a bit more detail so that the reader can understand why the range is so huge.

2. Methods section, 3rd paragraph: The authors state that 13% of the IDU in their cohort died before their wives could be contacted by study staff. What was the time period between the identification of the women to be contacted and the actual establishment of contact by the staff? The way it reads, it sounds as if the process of contacting these women took so long that the male IDU died of old age. Perhaps providing some information about the stage of disease of these individuals (e.g., they were already in advanced HIV infection), other variables affecting their health (e.g., other infections, such as hepatitis), or cause of death (i.e., overdose, accidental injury, HIV disease) might help explain why they died so quickly.

Suggested Minor Essential Revisions

1. The manuscript contains several instances of sentences that begin with numbers rather than actual words. In cases where percentages are being used to begin sentences, please write out the number; all instances if numbers within the same sentence can be left as numerals.

2. Please ensure that there is appropriate subject and verb agreement when discussing data. The word “data” is plural, and thus should be followed by an appropriate plural verb (i.e., “data were collected”).

Suggested Major Compulsory Revisions

No major compulsory revisions are noted.

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.