Reviewer’s report

Title: Frequent food insecurity among injection drug users: correlates and concerns

Version: 2 Date: 22 September 2012

Reviewer: Rafael Perez-Escamilla

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. Under methods authors indicate that ‘We added food insecurity (reporting not enough to eat on a daily/weekly or monthly basis in past 6 months because of a lack of money) to these analyses. It is still unclear why food insecurity was based on this question only when in fact they asked four questions. This decision needs to be justified both conceptually and psychometrically as the internal validity of analyses hinges strongly on it. If it can be defended then the correct term to use for analyses and results is ‘food insufficiency’ as the only food insecurity dimension being addressed refers to food quantity only.

2. Per authors’ responses to both my and the second reviewers request I understand that the relationship between food insecurity and socio-demographic factors will be presented in another paper. However I need to see those analyses (both bivariate and multivariate) to fully understand the findings presented in this manuscript, specifically the rationale for focusing on only one of the food insecurity questions asked.

3. Table 3 needs to indicate in a footnote how food insecurity was defined in multivariate analyses. Footnote also needs to include all variables included in original models. Models goodness-of-fitness (e.g., Hosmer-Lemeshow) statistics also needs to be reported as well in table. Please keep in mind that tables are supposed to be self standing.

4. There are numerous typographic errors. Please proof read manuscript before re-submitting.

‘…wherein eating a nutritionally adequate diet may not always BE a priority (38).’

P. 9/Par. 2: ‘…reported on a monthly BASIS.’

P. 11: It has been suggested that food insecurity may contribute to unsafe injection practices if food insecurity interferences with access harm reduction programs and health and social support programs (refs).

P. 12: ‘Severe food insecurity and s independently….’

P. 19: Two references have same number (# 36).
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests’