Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with history of drug use among female sex workers (FSW) in a high HIV prevalence state of India

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Reviewer: Thomas L Patterson

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting report of factors associated with being a drug user in northern India. The paper is clearly written and should provide guidance to prevention groups. I have a few comments. The authors state that “Although the relationships were not statistically significant, FSWs who gave history of drug use were also more likely to report having sex with clients suspected to be drug users (OR=4.91, CI: 2.69-8.92)”, if I am not mistaken assuming the numbers are correct this is in fact a significant relationship. I suggest dropping the text “more likely to report using condoms consistently with occasional 10 clients (OR=1.98, CI: 0.69-5.68), more likely to have ever heard of HIV (OR=2.74, CI: 0.91-8.22), and have active syphilis (OR=1.79, CI: 0.85-3.79)” since these are non-significant and readers can find these results in the table. Some variables do not appear in Table 1 comparisons (e.g., IDU vs. non-IDU) but are discussed (see para 1 of discussion), other variables do not agree from the text to the Table (e.g., have had drug injecting sexual partners in text, vs. suspects share needles). This needs to be carefully checked before the manuscript is accepted. However the results are interesting and findings are useful.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No interests.