Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 17 February 2012

Reviewer: Roger Detels

Reviewer’s report:

There are a number of serious problems with this paper which make it difficult to evaluate the validity of the findings.

Page 6 The authors need to identify the tests which were used to test for HIV and the other STIs. Also on page 5-6 in RDS it is usual to stop when homogeneity across waves occurs, not at an arbitrary target sample size.

A cutoff of .05 for entry into multivariate analysis may be too strict.

The authors need to indicate the number of original seeds, the percent of coupons returned and the number of waves from each original seed. Without this information it is impossible to evaluate the claim to representativeness.

In the conclusions rather than saying "several factors" the authors should identify which factors and how they will assist in developing more effective targeted interventions.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.