Reviewer’s report

Title: An exploration of elevated HIV and STI risk among male sex workers from India

Version: 2 Date: 17 September 2013

Reviewer: Kathryn Muessig

Reviewer’s report:

The revisions and edits have significantly strengthened this manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) Introduction – paragraphs 2 and 3 should be switched in order as it is still not clear that paragraph 2 is describing the setting being studied in this particular project.

2) Discussion - “As compared to Mumbai, MSWs from Hyderabad were probably at higher risk owing to the fact that they were older, a higher proportion were selling sex, reported higher rates of receptive anal sex and substance use, and had a higher prevalence of STIs.”

It appears that the multivariate analysis adjusted for some of these factors (e.g. receptive sex, substance use, syphilis, HSV2). In this case, the higher risk in Hyderabad may be driven by other factors not measured (including exposure to more HIV through sexual networks of partners who have higher HIV prevalence) or other explanations?

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'