Reviewer's report

Title: The characteristics of and high risk behaviors among non-injected heterosexual methamphetamine users in Qingdao, Shandong province, China

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Reviewer: Khoi Do

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The manuscript by Zhenhong Wang et al. present results of a study on characteristics of and high risk behaviors among non injecting heterosexual methamphetamine users in China. The work is a valuable contribution to the body of knowledge and should be published. However, the manuscript brings several questions, the addressing of which might help to improve the message of the report.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Introduction:
Paragraph 3: no space after full stop before the sentence “Among the 48,000 new infections estimated for 2009, heterosexual transmission accounted for 42.2% and homosexual transmission 32.5% of cases [19]”.
The term “non-injected heterosexual MA users” used throughout in this paper should be replaced by “non-injecting heterosexual MA users”

2. Method:
2.2 Recruitment and Screening of Participants:
Frist paragraph, incorrect spelling in “Bill & MelindaGates Foundation”, should be changed to “Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation”
Frist paragraph, there should be actual number or percentage after “most” and “some” in the following phrases “Most participants were recruited at nightclubs” and “Some participants were recruited directly by doctors at the STD clinic”.
The METHOD section will be enhanced if “Measures” are presented under a dedicated heading in which descriptions of the Measures are presented, i.e. what the authors mean by “perception of MA”, “perception of STDs/HIV; MA use” and “sexual behaviors related to MA use”.

2.4 Statistical Analysis: not only characteristics of MA users were analysed. This paragraph should be revised to provide a better description of Statistical Analysis conducted.

3. Results
3.1 Demographic information:
Wrong spelling “singe”
3.2 Perception of MA use:
“Most males and females believed its function of enhancing sexuality” should be changed to “Most males and females believed in its function of enhancing sexuality”

3.3 Perception of STDs/AIDS:
First paragraph, the sentence “As shown in Table 3, among all responders, 99.7% of males and 100% of females had ever heard of syphilis (p>0.05), but the proportion of those who claimed knowing the transmission routes of syphilis was higher in males than in females (93.1% vs 77.3%, p<0.05), although we do not know if they knew exactly.” will read better if converted into 2 sentences and “although we do not know if they knew exactly” may need to be revised for a better academic writing style.

3.5 High risk sexual behaviors related to MA use
“The proportions in males of ever having sex with multiple partners and ever exchanging sex partners” should be changed to “The proportions of males ever had sex with multiple partners and ever exchanged sex partners”

4. Discussion
First paragraph, in the sentence “Therefore most male MA users in our sample are married, local and self-employed businessmen, while most female MA users are young, single, mobile CSWs.”: There should be a comma after “Therefore”.

Second paragraph, in the sentence “The reasons why more and more people fall into addictiveness of MA need more speculation from physiological, psychological and social perspectives”: do the authors mean “speculation” or “study”? If yes, please replace the word “speculation”.

Second paragraph, “In this study, fewer females want to have a try to abstain from MA among those who recognized their addictiveness.”: please specify reference group.

The authors should check to make sure that past tense is used when reporting study results.

In the 4 supplementary files, there is no table for data on “High risk sexual behaviors related to MA use”, please supplement the table or at least mention “data not shown”.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Introduction:
Fourth paragraph, the phrase “The aim of this study is to explore the characteristics of male and female non-injected heterosexual MA users and high risk behaviors among them in China” will reads better if changed to “The aim of this study is to explore the characteristics of male and female non-injecting heterosexual MA users in China and their high risk behaviors”.

4. Discussion
First paragraph, “MA is usually the best gift to amuse friends” should be changed to “MA is usually considered the best gift to amuse friends”.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests