Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding cervical cancer screening among lesbians: a national survey

Version: 4 Date: 7 December 2012

Reviewer: Ruth McNair

Reviewer’s report:

Overall I think this paper is excellent.

No major compulsory revisions

Minor Essential revisions
1. In the abstract - first sentence of the conclusions - should read 'Some' women who identify as lesbian...

2. Introduction para 3 - the authors state that 80% of lesbians reported having an abnormal smear - this seems very high - could it be incorrect?

3. Statistical analyses description in the methods section - the authors state that 'the data from the survey can be extrapolated onto the US population'. I think this is not accurate - should instead state that they can be extrapolated to the US population willing to complete online surveys.

4. Discussion section.

It would be useful to first comment on the % of positive screeners versus the population data in USA. Was this lower as the literature would suggest? Also similarly to comment on the % abnormal results versus the population.

5. Conclusions

The final sentence could be strengthened by adding that public health interventions could also be designed to highlight that lesbians are at risk for HPV transmission and cervical abnormalities.

6. Table 2 - need to spell out HMBS?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests