Reviewer's report

Title: Preferred HIV testing services and programme characteristics among clients of a rapid HIV testing programme.

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Reviewer: Grace Reynolds

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting manuscript covering clients' perceptions of various HIV testing methods and venues. The authors should address the following issues:

1. The limitations of the study are not explicitly articulated and they include the sampling, which was convenience sampling of individuals accessing testing from a mobile van in an affluent area of Madrid. Because of this the sample was very young, very well educated, and also comprised of a large number of individuals from Latin America. The authors need to explain how their sampling limits, among other things, the generalizability of their findings.

2. There are not many studies that have reported on the preference of clients for pharmacy testing, which is not universally available, so this aspect of the study makes it worthwhile. The authors could expand their discussion of this a bit; in the United States pharmacy demonstration projects have been in place for a number of years for needle and syringe sales however, pharmacy-based HIV testing venues are not common in the U.S. The authors could make some preliminary recommendations about how their study could inform expanded HIV testing in the U.S. or other countries in pharmacy settings. This may be especially salient given the recent move by large pharmacy retailers such as Wal-Mart to provide expanded health care access through pharmacy locations under health care reform.

Minor revisions include a thorough editing of the English use. For example, in the Abstract under Methods, the only sentence in this section needs to be revised as the authors state "We analyzed" and conclude that same sentence with "were analyzed." The sentence can end at the word "Madrid" as using the verb "analyze" twice in one sentence is not necessary for readers' understanding.

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.