Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of HIV testing among men who have sex with men in Cameroon: a cross-sectional analysis

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2014

Reviewer: Janet Burnett

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. If one of the main purposes of this article is to inform the delivery of HIV testing among MSM in Cameroon, it would be more relevant to focus on more recent behavior. I would highly recommend conducting the bivariate analysis comparing those who had tested in the last 12 months versus those who had not. Policy or program changes targeting MSM who had tested for HIV in the past may not be effective in linking MSM to the HIV care and treatment cascade or continuum.

2. If the information is available, it is crucial to include MSM who are HIV positive but self-reported HIV negative. Prevention and program efforts should focus on those who are being missed by the HIV care continuum. On the flip side, it is not relevant to include those who already know they are HIV positive in this analysis. These persons could be the ones captured in “ever testing” but not in “recent testing”. Analysis on HIV testing should focus on those who actually need HIV testing. If self-reported HIV status was not included in the questionnaire, this needs to be emphasized in the limitations.

3. The article should mention or state any correlation, if any, between recent HIV testing behavior and HIV prevalence, particularly because the observed HIV prevalence among MSM in Cameroon was substantially high.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Although it is reported elsewhere, it would be helpful to have a description of the seeds, including the number of seeds by city, reported in this article. It would also be useful to know if the seeds were included in the analysis.

2. There is a typo in Table 4. For "Inconsistent condom use: regular male partner(s)" for "never tested for HIV", the percentage should be 26.0 not 67.6.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The comparison between the adjusted and unadjusted multivariate analysis seems unnecessary. It is sufficient to say that no differences were found between the weighted and unweighted multivariate analyses. Although there is no specified method to conduct multivariate analyses in RDS surveys, it is generally recommended by experts to weight the data.
2. Because HIV testing at the specific CBO was higher among MSM in Douala, it would be helpful to know what the homophily was for ever attending or recent attendance at a CBO--more specifically, Alternatives-Cameroun. Although recruitment patterns are accounted for in the RDS estimator II, it would give context to the results of HIV testing.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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