Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2014

Reviewer: Gabriela Paz-Bailey

Reviewer's report:

Compulsory revisions

1. Both CDC and WHO HIV testing recommendations for MSM are to test at least once a year. HIV testing in this population is common and about two thirds had tested in the past year and 80% had tested at least once in their lifetime. For programmatic purposes it may be more useful to use past 12 months testing as the outcome. Programs could benefit in knowing who is not testing every 12 months and target them for testing services. You also need to clarify the timeframe for the outcome in the abstract, results and tables.

2. The RDS weighted adjusted analyses is not clearly described. Since there are no standardized methods to do weighted multivariate analyses of RDS data, it would be important for the authors to describe in more detail their analyses methods. Was the weight for the outcome variable used in the analyses? Was network size used as a covariate in the model? What there any account for clustering?

3. You state in the first paragraph of the statistical analyses that the RDS2 estimator was used and that the weights used the transition matrix. To my knowledge RDS2 estimators do not use the transition matrix for dichotomous variables. Please check: Section 3 of Volz and Heckathorn 2008 (Journal of Official Statistics)

4. In the current paragraph of your methods you state that the multivariate analyses evaluated the association between HIV status and covariates, I thought your outcome was ever testing for HIV.

Discretionary revisions

5. It would be important to use any measure of health care system usage such as having had a visit to a health care provider, or disclosure of sexual preferences to a health care provider and explore their association with HIV testing.

6. Is homosexuality illegal in Cameroon? Would be useful to provide more info on the legal framework.

7. Presenting four OR for each variable seems excessive especially since the results do not change.

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