Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers to Asymptomatic Screening and Other STD Services for Adolescents and Young Adults: Focus Group Discussion

Version: 1 Date: 24 May 2004

Reviewer: Liana Clark

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting paper that assesses via qualitative methods, adolescents’ perceived barriers to STD screening and treatment. Overall the paper is well-written and provides good information on what adolescents consider to be issues related to access to STD diagnosis and care.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. NIH and the 2000 census both use the term "white" rather than "Caucasian" in referring to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. The results section could be enhanced with the inclusion of more of the focus group quotes. It seems more fluid to have the quotes contained within the results text than separately in tables.

2. It would be interesting to have new focus groups use Nominal Group Technique to prioritize the adolescents' concerns and perceived barriers to care.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None