Reviewer's report

Title: Body Mass Index, Sexual Behaviour, and Sexually Transmitted Infections: An Analysis using the NHANES 1999-2000 data

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2006

Reviewer: Christopher K Fairley

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper appears to be a superficial analysis of existing data. It appears to have been done by authors who are not very familiar with behavioural STI research.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
A considerable amount of time would need to be spent on the analysis and discussion of the BMI finding. (not the HSV findings are old and don't really need to be mentioned).

BMI rises with age, slowly but most life time partners are acquired before 30 years of age. The complex nature of this is not discussed. Also, BMI determines many other things which do not seem to have been measured or accounted for in the analysis.

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

Please put data in the abstract, it is really important that this includes the key data—numbers, p-values, confidence intervals etc, rather than just sentences. Remember most people don't look beyond the abstract.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes