Reviewer's report

Title: Focus Group Interviews examination of knowledge, attitude and practice to lead exposure in South Western Nigeria

Version: Date: 10 November 2005

Reviewer: Michelle C Kegler

Reviewer's report:

General

This paper describes findings from four focus groups with residents of Ibadan, Nigeria about their perceptions of lead poisoning. Little is known about lead poisoning knowledge, attitudes and practices in Africa. The study will contribute to the knowledge base needed to design effective environmental health education interventions, but needs some additional detail and clarification.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

1. Describe the sampling frame in more detail. The authors mention the RECLES study as providing the context, but what that means in terms of recruitment isn't clear.
2. Provide more detail on the data analysis. Were the transcripts coded? The authors say the analysis was done both manually and with ATLAS. This should be described in more detail.
3. The narrative should include a discussion of the focus group guide and its major content areas. The major topics could also be included in Table 1, along with the questions used.
4. Given the title, one expects to see findings related to knowledge, attitudes and practices. It looks as if only one practice was explored—having their domestic environment tested for lead. It would be useful to re-organize the findings and accompanying table so these three categories are more apparent.
5. Add a discussion of how the participants compare to the population at large.
6. Add a discussion of Nigeria’s current regulatory environment with respect to lead.
7. Expand the limitations section—what are the implications of having such heterogeneous groups?
8. Add implications for future research.
9. Split Table 2 into two tables.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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. Change the title to “An examination of knowledge, attitudes and practices related to lead exposure in Southwestern Nigeria.”
2. There are some language problems which can be easily fixed: change to “knowledge, attitudes and practices related to lead exposure” throughout.
3. Abstract, 7th sentence. We found that there WAS
4. Page 3, add s to metal.
5. Page 3 first para, change commonest to most common
6. Page 3 first para, add s to sources in second to last para
7. Page 4, first para, shorten first sentence
8. Page 4, second para, add d to constitute
9. Page 5, second para, fix English
10. Page 7, remove “on lead” in heading
11. Page 11, third para, add “to our knowlegbe, there is no….” and drop phrase about PubMed search.
12. Fix English in last paragraph.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Give gender of participant along with quotes, for example, “male participant.”

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.