Reviewer's report

Title: Lost opportunities in HIV prevention: programmes miss places where exposures are highest

Version: 1 Date: 3 November 2007

Reviewer: Edward Mills

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General
While this is an article of some importance, it is written in a style that is difficult to follow and, I am afraid to say, is somewhat colonial in its assumptions of some African’s activities. Transactional sex, for example, happens everywhere, and is far more complex than simply being about money.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Why cite the antenatal clinic data when there is now door-to-door prevalence data in Lusaka?
I could not view figure 1.
Tables have errors in them related to formatting.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Be careful about using the word "which", in most cases you should use "that".
Stats section makes very little sense to me.
Your stats section makes no reference to hypotheses and yet you have chi-square tests in the results (and this shouldn't have been a chi2 test).
I have no idea what is meant in the 2nd paragraph of the discussion.
Why underline things in a manuscript?
I am not sure that questions such as "why did you come here today? To meet a sexual partner" can rationally capture the complex reasons people may go to a bar.
The conclusion, that poverty eradication is needed, is naive.
If your research assistants carried out most of the interviews, why are they not authors?

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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.