Reviewer's report

Title: Early initiation of sexual activity: a risk factor for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection, and unwanted pregnancy among university students in China

Version: 2 Date: 2 February 2009

Reviewer: Garrett Prestage

Reviewer's report:

The authors appear to have dealt with most of the reviewer comments. My only outstanding comment concerns the authors’ conclusion that seems to emphasise a focus on delayed sexual debut. This is fair enough as a simple response to these data, but is not really sufficient as a comprehensive review of both their own and other data. The finding that pregnancy and STD infections occurred mainly due to lack of precautions among participants rather than length of sexual activity is highly suggestive that age of sexual debut in itself may not be sufficient explanation. It may well be that men who commence sexual activity at an earlier age are also more inclined to take risks or to explore a range of sexual and other behaviours in general, and so they would be more likely to appear among those with these negative outcomes (pregnancy or STD infection) regardless of what age they commenced their sexual activity.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 that I have no competing interests