Reviewer's report

Title: Multilevel analysis of HIV related risk behaviors among heroin users in a low prevalence population

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2008

Reviewer: William Zule

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1. Major Compulsory Revisions
The risk measure seems to be designed in such a way that injectors are automatically at enhanced risk and non-injectors are at lower risk. Under these circumstances it seems like the models are essentially predicting whether a participant is an injector or not. However, only 25% are current injectors and only 2% of injectors report current sharing. The authors need to conduct separate analyses for sexual risk and injection risk. The model for injection risk should focus syringe sharing among injectors. An alternative would be to develop a model with injecting as the outcome for the whole sample. This would not necessarily indicate injection risk though.

2. Minor essential revisions
A time frame for the risk behaviors (page 6) needs to be specified. Are these lifetime behaviors, past year or past 30 days?

Page 11-- The difference between "geographic variation of income level" and "community level income" needs to be defined.

3. Discretionary revisions
Generally percentages are only reported to a single decimal point and odds ratios are only reported to 2 decimal points.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.