Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 18 February 2009

Reviewer: William Zule

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the issues that I raised in my two previous reviews. There is one minor point that the authors may wish to consider addressing.

In the discussion, the authors include the following statement:

"Apparently, drug users spent most of their time around the clinic area and socialized with other clients from the same clinic."

It may be more clear if the authors changed "clinic area" to neighborhood and changed "socialized with other clients from the same clinic" to 'socialized with other drug users from the same neighborhood." This is a minor point, but it may be important since the article is really about active drug users rather than about methadone patients. There could be variations in practices (e.g. methadone dose, type and amount of counseling) across clinics that could influence HIV risk behaviors. However, those differences may be irrelevant since participants are describing behaviors in which they engaged prior to enrolling in methadone maintenance.

The manuscript could benefit from additional editing to improve the English.

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.