Reviewer’s report

Title: Estimating the regional distribution of men who have sex with men (MSM) based on Internet surveys and calculation of MSM population-specific incidence of sexually transmitted infections

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Reviewer: John de Wit

Reviewer’s report:

Authors present a highly interesting, timely and innovative study to estimate the regional distribution of MSM and STI incidence in Germany. The only issues I have with the paper are that it is rather lengthy and it could refer somewhat more to the literature. Regarding the length, my suggestion would be that authors focus their methods, results and discussion more explicitly on the main aim of the paper, which is to estimate the regional distribution of MSM and the incidence/prevalence of STI in this group. Other analyses seem to be more requisite to make the authors major case and could potentially be dealt with in a more succinct way. The discussion is particularly lengthy, and sometimes explanations are given for less central problems and at times it is unclear how these explanations actually explain findings. In my view a stronger focus on the main aims and taking out lengthy treatments of less central issues would strengthen the paper. Similarly, the number of tables and, in particular, figures could be substantially reduced.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.