Reviewer's report

Title: Sexual behavior and drug consumption among young adults in a Latin American shantytown

Version: 1 Date: 12 September 2008

Reviewer: Maureen D Reynolds

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions - None

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Background, page 1, need to define acronym "MSM".
2. Methods, Study Site, last sentence "...from the Peruvian non-governmental organization and A.B. PRISMA." If the agency's name is A.B. PRISMA, the "and" is incorrect. Also there is a little more description in the following paragraph. It would be more clear if the description of the agency was provided with the first mention of it. Also in paragraph 1 of Sample section, there are no . after the A.B. - which is it? With periods or without?
3. Sample, first paragraph, what computer program was used to generate the random sample? Please reference it.
4. Sample - how were the subjects contacted? Did someone just knock on their door? Was there prior knowledge that workers were conducting surveys or were these cold calls?
5. Variables - last word in first paragraph should be plural - symptoms.
6. Variables, fourth paragraph. Educational level comparison groups - the presentation of this looks as though there are two groups but in Table 1 it is clear there are three. Please label consistently as in Table 1.
7. Results, Illicit drug use, heavy episodic drinking and risky sexual behaviors section. When referring to Table 3 the authors reference model 1 and model 2 in the text, when in the table there are actually three model 1's and three model 2's. Perhaps it would be clearer to the reader to label them models 1 through 6 or do separate tables for the three sets of models tested.
8. Results, last paragraph, last sentence "...HED effect was not found..." (t is missing).

Discretionary Revisions

In the discussion reference is made to to a National Study of STI and HIV Prevalence in young adults in Peru. The current study would have been a lot more interesting if the authors had been able to make comparisons between this sample from the shantytown versus the national sample, for both men and women.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.