Reviewer's report

**Title:** Chlamydia trachomatis infection and sexual behaviour among female third level students in Ireland.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 July 2009

**Reviewer:** Ian Simms

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this paper. There are a few typos in the text and references, but my comments are mainly associated with general revisions which I think will make the paper more interesting and relevant to the readership.

**Major revisions**

The investigation is particularly interesting given the social context within Ireland. It would be interesting if the authors could comment on this in the Discussion as this will heavily influence the implementation of an Irish national chlamydia screening programme. What are the barriers to the delivery of sexual health within Ireland and what are the consequences of this to the population?

The study isn't a prevalence study, it investigated positivity within a student population, but it shows that there may be a large reservoir of infection within sections of the Irish population - more than the 1278 notified cases might indicate.

The authors should also note the presence of the English National Chlamydia Screening Programmes and the other control strategies adopted within the British Isles. References to studies in Japan and elsewhere seem inappropriate given the close proximity to the world's only national chlamydia screening programme.

The authors should also clarify why they found that 'infection was strongly associated with suggestive symptoms' when those patients presenting 'with symptoms suggestive of a STI....were excluded'.

**Minor revisions**

The number of references could be reduced to around 12 - some of the references are inappropriate and removing them won't present a problem.

**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