Reviewer’s report

Title: Chlamydia trachomatis infection and sexual behaviour among female tertiary students in the Republic of Ireland.

Version: 3 Date: 18 August 2009

Reviewer: Hannah Madden

Reviewer’s report:

You have made some real improvements to the article and addressed the omissions in the methods and any confusion regarding the sample. No major compulsory revisions but some minor issues that probably need addressing before final copy.

• Major Compulsory Revisions
  None
• Minor Essential Revisions
  The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.
  1. You still use the expression ‘tertiary’ a few times in the article (inc. abstract) but this isn’t explained anywhere. Could you use ‘higher education’ consistently?
  2. Could you refer to Table 2 in the Data and sample collection section when discussing demographics?
  3. You use numbers and words inconsistently in the text (eg 2 weeks/two weeks).
  4. Is it possible for another member of the team to read through it as there are still a number of spelling/consistency issues and some sentences don’t flow very smoothly? Also some phrasing (eg lots of ‘beings’) makes it tricky to read (eg ‘laboratory resources are being limited’ - could be rephrased to ‘limited laboratory resources’)

• Discretionary Revisions
  These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.
  1. The other reviewer stated the need to include reference to the English National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) and the social context in Ireland. I think this would be very interesting to discuss and make it more relevant to the readership. The NCSP is interesting due to its proximity and pioneering nature.
  2. Some of the variable names in the tables a bit longwinded and cumbersome eg – ‘Not-Ireland = country most lived in’. Can you rephrase these?
  3. In the response to one of my original comments you say you inserted ‘Risk assessment is increasingly important in this current economic recession and in
the midst of the Influenza A(H1N1)v pandemic, as both clinician's time and laboratory resources are being limited.’ The middle part of this sentence (about H1N1) is not actually included in the text. Is this intentionally left out? Is fine without it I just wanted to check it was purposefully left out.

4. Is there another way you can phrase ‘country most lived in’ – uncommon phrasing that may confuse people. Use ‘usual country of residence’ or something like that?

**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