Reviewer's report

Title: Structural factors associated with an increased risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infection transmission among street-involved youth.

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Reviewer: Kimberly A. Tyler

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This is an interesting paper that addresses an understudied population. Although research has been conducted with this population on STI’s and HIV risk behavior previously, very few studies have examined structural level factors. In this way, this study is unique.

The abstract and purpose of study are clear. The introduction is comprehensive and well-written.

Methods
Although the sample is longitudinal, the authors only use a cross-section for their study. In addition, in the discussion section they state that future studies should use longitudinal study designs to corroborate their findings; I’m confused. If they have longitudinal data, why didn’t they use it? The authors need to explain in the Methods section why they are not using the longitudinal component. They may have a very good reason for doing so but it needs to be made explicit.

On p. 3 second paragraph under the Methods, the authors need to provide more information on their first dependent variable (i.e., number of sexual partners in the past 6 months). How was this variable coded? What is the range? How skewed was it, etc? Although on p.6 the authors talk about skew, this should be mentioned where they describe the variable. This omission stands out given that they devote a large section to explaining their second dependent variable.

Results and Discussion section are clear.