Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding why women seek abortions in the US

Version: 5 Date: 14 May 2013

Reviewer: Deborah Billings

Reviewer's report:

The authors have taken just about all of the reviewers’ comments under consideration, have provided excellent responses to the comments (including to comments that they did not agree with), and have revised the manuscript accordingly. One comment that I did not feel was fully addressed is the following:

Minor essential revision

ORIGINAL COMMENT: How was consent obtained and recorded (eg oral consent and the interviewer vouched for this)? Were the phone calls recorded?

AUTHORS' COMMENT: Thank you for your comment. We have added the following paragraph to the methods section: “Parental consent was obtained from women under the age of 18 living in states where parental notification or consent for an abortion is required. In states without parental involvement laws, women under the age of 18 were screened for their ability to understand the risks and benefits of the study and, when they were determined to be able, they provided informed consent on their own behalf.”

MY FOLLOW-UP COMMENT: I was not referring to consent obtained specifically for minors but for all study participants. I still have the question about whether the phone calls were recorded (if so, how were the recordings stored?) and whether consent was oral (and recorded) from all participants.

Level of interest:
This is an important contribution to the literature on abortion and women’s lives.

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.

**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.