Reviewer's report

Title: Preliminary development of a scale to measure stigma relating to sexually transmitted infections among women in a high risk neighbourhood

Version: 2 Date: 27 June 2008

Reviewer: Adina Nack

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the thoughtful and thorough author's response to reviewers, and I am impressed with the revised manuscript.

The only minor essential revision I recommend is in regard to the first part of the "Discussion" section, pages 13-15, where the authors report that higher internal stigma was found among "women reporting Aboriginal, Inuit or Metis ethnicity." The clarification of this finding is on page 15, a paragraph that begins, "High levels of female-specific moral stigma..." I appreciate the final sentence of that paragraph, "...indicating that a culturally-specific influence was present."

I understand the author's point about not having the time/resources to add a brief discussion of how these three cultures have traditionally constructed meanings of feminine sexual morality. So, the next best solution may be acknowledging it as a small but real limitation of the current study and noting it in that section of the paper. Its clear that practitioners' abilities to interpret the meanings of the developed stigma scale would be enhanced by research on culturally-specific constructions of STIs, especially with regard to feminine sexual morality, of the cultural/ethnic groups from which samples are drawn.

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.