Reviewer’s report

Title: Methamphetamine use and correlates in two villages of the highland ethnic Karen minority in northern Thailand: a cross sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 30 December 2008

Reviewer: Wendee Wechsberg

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions needed:
1. Background: The first statement is s strong one that needs back up or referencing. Who are the ethnic minorities; this should be explicated, in addition to the concept of social mixing, migration for jobs etc.

2. A need to better set up the issue for disease transmission from meth use, to sexual risk to HIV?

3. Methods: How was the sample selection done, the instrumentation developed from what, validated and adapted how? What cultural differences were addressed?

4. Results: Table 1 was presented in a confusing manner

Minor Essential Revisions:

5. Table 2 needs to collapse rows. Do not need7 rows (ever married, not graduated, never worked, no to opium, no to marijuana, no to heroin, no to opium, marijuana, heroin) They are the inverse of data presented.

Overall: This paper in its present form is fairly weak and has not set up the data. It maybe the only data available about meth use and worthy of publication if these issues are addressed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.