Reviewer's report

Title: Reports of Evidence Planting by Police among a Community-Based Sample of Injection Drug Users in Bangkok, Thailand

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2009

Reviewer: Daniel Reidpath

Reviewer's report:

The paper is much improved. However, the use of "evidence planting" continues to be used throughout the paper rather than "reported evidence planting". Notwithstanding the caveats that appear in the paper, a casual reader could easily be misled (see the Abstract, for instance).

The points that need attention are:

Abstract - The abstract needs to be fixed to make clear that the study is about reports of evidence planting by IDUs.

Page 3, last sentence. The implication of the sentence is that those people who have been incarcerated for drug possession were not found guilty of that charge. The reference could either support that assertion, or the assertion made in the sub-clause about the proportion of prisoners who are drug users. To avoid an accusation of bias, the authors should make clear whether (a) the reference refers to both clauses of the sentence, and (b) whether those incarcerated have been through the judicial system.

Page 4, the last sentence of the Introduction suggests that the anecdotal reports of evidence planting are true and this study simply seeks to measure prevalence and correlates. The problem with this line of reasoning is described in my initial review and needs to be addressed here. The best this study can hope to study is the prevalence and the correlates of reported evidence planting by a community-recruited sample of injecting drug users. Page 5 (Statistical analyses) makes this very clear in the first sentence and could be used as the model.

Page 7 (Discussion) The phrase "evidence planting by police" needs to be replaced systematically with "reported evidence planting by police".

Page 8, para 1, Sentence 1. The sentence needs to be reworded to make clear that the research results support the fact that IDUs report evidence planting. The sentence is otherwise ambiguous.

Page 8, Para 1, final sentence. The sentence "Our findings indicate that evidence planting by police is indeed another way in which abuse of power by police may be exerted in Thailand..." presumes that the research has established evidence planting. Given that the research design could not be used to establish evidence...
planting, the sentence needs to be reworked.

Page 9, para 1, sentence 1 "... was found to be independently associated with evidence planting of drugs" needs to be corrected

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'