Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge, Attitude and Status of Nitrite Inhalants Use Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Tianjin China

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Margaret Weeks

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses a very significant and rising concern in China and globally, specifically, the use of nitrite inhalants and other synthetic drugs among men who have sex with men (MSM), particularly during sexual encounters. This basic knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral cross-sectional survey of a convenience sample of MSM in Tianjin offers important data on the prevalence of use and knowledge about the drug and its health and other side effects and consequences in a population that is at high risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and syphilis. The paper also provides preliminary information about factors associated with greater nitrite inhalant use among subpopulations of MSM. The study was well designed to recruit a convenience sample of MSM that might be generalizable to MSM in other Chinese cities, and data collection procedures were rigorous and designed with ethical considerations. Data analyses were also well designed and implemented.

While the paper is both significant and timely, given the rapid increase in use of these drugs and the implications of this use for public health, particularly the rising HIV and syphilis epidemics in China, the manuscript in its current form has significant problems that must be addressed.

First, the English language usage and grammar has many mistakes. It should be reviewed and edited carefully by a native English speaker to correct those errors. This is important and necessary before the paper should be published.

Second, the Background section could be expanded to provide more context for the problem of nitrite inhalant use in China, particularly studies of cities comparable to Tianjin, in addition to globally.

Third, the Discussion section should be revised. The first paragraph is completely redundant with the Findings section and can be deleted. Instead, more attention should be given to the authors' interpretation and application of the findings. Specifically, they should comment further on
possible reasons for the findings, their interpretations and understanding of the meaning of the findings, and possible explanations for associations among different factors and nitrite inhalant use. Some of this is already in the Discussion section, which is good, but it should be expanded.

The Conclusion section is also somewhat redundant. It should be expanded with other information about the full implications of the study findings and where research should go in the future.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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