Reviewer’s report

Title: “They’re always there”: Resident Experiences of Living with Rats in a Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhood

Version: 0 Date: 21 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Danielle German

Reviewer’s report:

This important manuscript adds valuable experiential and descriptive insight to prior research about the meaning and potential negatives impacts of rat exposure among low-income urban residents. This topic has been largely overlooked in scientific literature, despite the degree of emphasis that community members tend to place on this stressor. The methods and approach are strong; and the VANDU collaboration is a notable strength. The results are convincing and nicely complement findings that we have observed in quantitative studies and in discussions with residents. The sample and approach allows for rich description, but I do wonder about the small proportion of female participants. Given that the authors cite a number of examples where the findings among women seemed unique, it is unfortunate that they were not able to further expand this component of their data collection. It would be useful for the authors to reflect on their confidence in having reached saturation among women - and if not, to comment further in the limitation section about how the readers should interpret their observations about potential gender differences.

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

Yes

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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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I am able to assess the statistics
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Acceptable

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