Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of a Culturally Tailored SMS Alcohol Intervention for Same-Sex Attracted Women: Protocol for an RCT

Version: 0 Date: 31 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Joseph Lee

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors:

Thank you for this important work to design and test an intervention addressing an substantial inequity for lesbian and bisexual women (or same-sex attracted women as you more technically note). There are substantial gaps in the knowledge base regarding interventions to address health inequities for sexual and gender minority populations. As such, your work fills an important gap. I have one larger comment and several smaller ones.

LARGER COMMENT

1. You are comparing a tailored intervention to a generic message. I wonder about the importance of testing if the tailoring is needed. I say this because there is an increasingly large literature in tobacco control that culturally targeted interventions are desired and appreciated but do not improve outcomes over standard interventions for sexual and gender minority populations. For example: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30169797 We covered the older literature in this systematic review: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25455123 Thus, I think it's a bit of a missed opportunity to test if the tailoring of the intervention to SSAW is important or not. (This is not a fatal flaw, just a comment.)

SMALLER COMMENTS

2. Page 21, recruitment challenges. There may be ideas from this literature: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29914861

questions to inform a third generation for health promotion research. Health Education Quarterly, 23 (Suppl.), S142-S161.


5. Page 5, "Research also indicates that SSAW are reluctant to seek help for alcohol-related problems" and similar statements. I would just make sure that this is less of a blanket statement. As a population, yes, but individuals may not match the population average.

Thank you for your important work in this area.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. L. Lee, PhD, MPH

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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
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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