Reviewer’s report

Title: Scrambling for access: Availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in South Africa

Version: 0 Date: 06 Feb 2017
Reviewer: Stine Braathen

Reviewer's report:

First, I would like to congratulate the author on a very well written and well structured article. The topic is highly relevant, and contributes to our understanding of access to health care for vulnerable groups in general and for LGBT people more specifically. It highlights and explores the role of stigma and discrimination by health service providers in determining access to health care as it is perceived by health service users. One shortcoming of the article is its lack of attention to the views and perspectives of the health service providers, especially seeing as these are accused of possessing discriminatory views and behaviours. If the researcher has data on this, it would strengthen the article further, but at least the issue should be raised in the section where she describes limitations of the study. Another shortcoming of the article is its lack of attention to racial and cultural issues. Given the multiracial and multicultural nature of South African society, I believe these issues should be raised in the article. What racial/cultural groups are represented in the sample of informants, and what is the relevance of race/culture to people's perceptions and experiences.

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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