Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of Indoor Work Environments on Health, Safety, and Human Rights among Migrant Sex Workers at the Guatemala-Mexico Border: A Call for Occupational Health and Safety Interventions

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Lynn Michalopoulos

Reviewer’s report:

This is an important study which aims to investigate migrant sex workers’ narratives related to structural aspects of their work environment which may shape vulnerability and agency related to HIV/STI prevention and violence at the Guatemala-Mexico border. This paper significantly contributes to the literature as it informs a more detailed understanding of environmental risk and protective factors which can subsequently inform prevention models for this at risk population.

Intro is well-written and includes relevant literature as well as a clear rationale for the study and use of qual methods.

Methods are also well-written and clear. I would suggest the authors add brief section on rigor for qualitative methods, such as explicitly stating how credibility, confirmability, transferability and dependability were determined. Please also clearly state how the interviews and focus groups were conducted, i.e., were they conducted simultaneously or was one used to inform the other? How were participants determined to complete FGD or the interview?

Results: Overall, the themes/sub-themes are well-articulated and informative. The differences in managerial practices both as potential protective factor and risk was especially informative. With the high amount of trauma/violence was any data captured on psychosocial outcomes/mental health of the participants which has also been associated with HIV risk? This seemed to be discussed somewhat with the pervasive sense of fear some of the women experienced but were there other post trauma outcomes mentioned? I would suggest that the authors also note any steps that were taken to ensure that all of the voices were heard in the data and not over-represented by a few participants.

Discussion strongly points out the risk and protective factors and how this can inform interventions on multiple levels. As mentioned previously, I would suggest that the author/s mention psychosocial outcomes or mention this as a limitation to understanding the full experience for this vulnerable population.

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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