Reviewer’s report

Title: Does alcohol use have a causal effect on HIV incidence and disease progression? A review of the literature and a modeling strategy for quantifying the effect

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Reviewer: Scott Braithwaite

Reviewer's report:

This article reads like a perspective piece rather than a research paper. It is not a systematic review, and does not incorporate modeling in any form that resembles standards of the field. Its basic point: If HIV-infected persons with BAC>0.07 continue to have sex at rates unmodified by ART and if intentions for risky sex predict risky sex behavior (a gigantic "if") then the population-attributable fraction of HIV deaths from alcohol is 4.5%. It's a reasonable argument, but the article overstates the rigor of the underlying methods.

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