Reviewer's report

Title: Intimate Partner Abuse Before and During Pregnancy as Risk Factors for Postpartum Mental Health Problems

Version: 2 Date: 20 March 2014

Reviewer: Jodie Valpied

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has been improved substantially, and the research questions etc. are now much clearer. However concerns regarding the presentation of results still remains (see below).

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1/ Tables 1 and 2 need revising in order to present the t-test results in a clearer and more scientifically acceptable format (following conventions for the reporting of t-test results). For example, the asterisks representing p-values should be placed next to the t-statistic or confidence interval for the difference between the means, rather than next to one of the means (as, following conventional formatting 'rules', the format used by the authors would indicate that that the initial mean itself is significant, rather than the difference between the two means).

2/ I believe the analysis methods and presentation of results need to be reviewed by a statistician with experience and expertise in MANCOVA (which is less commonly used now). E.g. there seems to some important information missing from the MANCOVA analysis results in Tables 3 and 4, including overall F and effect size for each model. Also were posthoc analyses conducted?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests