Reviewer's report

Title: Mental health of indigenous school children in northern Chile

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Reviewer: Benjamin Vicente

Reviewer's report:

The above article refers to a very interesting area not well covered specially in this part of the world. The nature of the study is clearly exploratory and focuses on symptomatology.

Accepting its intrinsic value the design has a number of limitations not explicited by the authors. The study group is a convenience sample therefore no extrapolations are easy to make, none of the instrument have been validated in Chile, only adaptations are reported and even some are unpublished. The age range of the subjects (9 to 15) pose some concerns regarding the reliability of using self report measures. Most structured diagnostic interviews such as DISC have a parent a version for children below 12 years old.

Despite the above comments and providing the exploratory nature and limitations were detailed, the manuscript might deserve Publication in BMC Psychiatry.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests