Reviewer's report

Title: Course of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and healthcare utilisation among resettled refugees in the Netherlands

Version: 2
Date: 9 November 2013
Reviewer: Delma-Jean watts

Reviewer's report:

Interesting article with clear methods, results and discussion. However, the abstract and background need clarification as they are confusing on their own without reading the rest of the paper first. They do not accurately reflect the organized research that was done. The comments below pertain to these issues.

No Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Abstract, results--They are difficult to understand without reading the rest of the paper. First sentence should just state that prevalence was essentially unchanged, with percentages. It would be better not to use words that suggest analysis in this section and instead just state the numbers. I suggest deleting the section that starts with "partly attributable to" and instead start a second sentence with the parenthetical section. For example, Half of the respondents with PTSD at time 2 were new cases, for whom PTSD developed after 2003. Then should delete sentence that starts with "the second reason..." as well as the second half of sentence 3 (starts with , while the effectiveness...) These both seem more like interpretation and would be better in conclusions.

2. Abstract, conclusions--I find this section awkward. I would suggest something such as, "A persistently high prevalence of PTSD was found in a group of refugees. The findings of this study suggest there are two possible explanations for this phenomenon. One is the late onset of PTSD and the other is low utilization of mental health care. Healthcare professionals should be aware of these issues, especially given the effectiveness of mental healthcare for this condition."

3. Background, general--The paragraphs that start with first, second and third possibilities do not transition well from one to the next. Should instead start each with something such as "One (or another) explanation for the persistent high prevalence of PTSD is..."

It should be more clear that there are 3 potential explanations based on the literature--1) new cases/late onset, 2) same patients but untreated, or 3) treated but unsuccessful.

4. Background, paragraph 2--Please rephrase the "to be in contrast to" part and make more clear.
5. Background, paragraph 3--See above in general. Also, please change "this disease" to PTSD. Please rephrase "quasi-unchanged". The second part of the sentence with reference (10) needs clarification. I am not clear on what this part means.

6 Background, last paragraph--Please state research question and hypothesis. These are very clear in the analysis section of the methods and should be more explicit here.

7. Methods, Premigration section--Please define HTQ before using abbreviation (done in next section).

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.