Author's response to reviews

Title: Do adverse childhood experiences increase the risk of postdeployment posttraumatic stress disorder in US Marines?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Melissa Norton, MD
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Public Health

Dear Editor Norton,

Enclosed please find our revised manuscript titled, “Do adverse childhood experiences increase the risk of postdeployment posttraumatic stress disorder in US Marines?”

The authors have responded to the comments of the reviewer and associate editor. A revised version of the manuscript has been submitted. Our responses to each of the comments (in bold) follow below:

**Reviewer 2:**

1. Because two of the three reviewers noted the limitations of using the proxy of combat exposure (months deployed), I would suggest that the authors provide some citation justifying their position that "...exposure would have been similar as they all had recently finished recruit training and were deployed for the first time." The Hoge et al., 2004 paper showed high rates of overall exposure among Marines (although there was greater variability reported across various types of specific combat stressors) – citing this might help to address this point for readers.

We appreciate this suggestion and have incorporated a sentence (These Marines may have been exposed to varying levels of combat or trauma, however, it is likely that the combat exposure experienced by this homogeneous sample of active duty, male Marines in this study was similar since they all deployed for the first time shortly after finishing recruit training [10]), as suggested, with the reference to Hoge’s article in the discussion of our manuscript.

**Associate Editor:**

1. There is one additional suggestion from Reviewer 2 that the authors need to address, then their paper will be suitable for publication.

Thank you, we have addressed this issue as mentioned above.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the suggestions provided by the reviewer and associate editor. Thank you again for considering our work for publication in the BMC Public Health. As corresponding author, please contact me if I can provide any additional information.
Very Respectfully,

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