Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 9 October 2009

Reviewer: Benjamin Vicente

Reviewer's report:

Despite the obvious interest of PTSD and the size of the sample (8.391) the report has significant limitations that in the end represents a small advance to deserve publication.

Understandably only males are included, the follow up period is not long enough. Being deployed is considered equivalent to combat exposure.

Adverse childhood experiences are self reported at the beginning of recruit training (a more directive search might have changed the results)

Eventhough information from medical records are a objective outcome measure it seems very surprising that ICD-9 is the classification used having available ICD-10 for more than 15 years.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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