Reviewer's report

Title: Violence witnessing, perpetrating and victimization in Medellin, Colombia. A random population survey

Version: 1 Date: 3 February 2011

Reviewer: Olufunmilayo Fawole

Reviewer's report:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Abstract:
The conclusion reads more like a result section. This starts from ‘men reported the highest ............ to ........severity of violence’. This could be moved to the results section, an instead end the conclusion with a recommendation.

Background:
Should have only about three paragraphs. Recast sentences e.g ‘.....only to climb to .... Can be changed to increase to ....’

Methods:
Explain how the difference in the target sample size and the actual sample size came about. Was parental consent or child’s assent obtained from respondents who were less than 18 years? Don't put initials on names of persons referenced in the text. On verbal violence, please explain what pranks and severe pranks mean.

No mention of the ethical considerations. Was proposal approved by an ethic committee? Was informed consent obtained? Written or verbal? Etc

Results:
Explain how the victim aggressor ratio was computed.

Tables:
In table 5, explain Hombre and Muyer
It may be good to compute scores, for everyone who has ever experienced violence a score is given and a mean score is obtained for the different aggression types (victims, aggression and witness). This can be done separately for lifetime and past one year. This will give an overall picture and allow for more comparisons.

MAJOR COMPULSORY

Discussion:
Don’t repeat results in discussion, simply discuss. Most of the first paragraph and
part of the second are a repeat of the results. Generally points/issues are not
discussed but stated e.g. why the armed assault figures are higher in this study
than in ACTIVA. Discuss why the identified groups are more likely to have
experienced aggression, victimization and witnessing violence.
Thank you.

Olufunmilayo Fawole

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.