Reviewer's report

Title: Problem drinking and physical intimate partner violence against women: Evidence from a national survey in Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2012

Reviewer: Jason Ferris

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Author

I am appreciative of the effort the authors went through to address the comments provided by the reviewers for the previous submission. I have reviewed these responses and please with the authors responses. In light of this I have reviewed the revised publication as a new publication.

The paper presented is valuable given the lack of population-based data on this topic available for Uganda. As noted by the authors the UN have asserted the need to eliminate IPV; the paper helps boost the country level information about this. And given this I support it's publication.

Concerns:

P4. L1: 'one of the most commonest definitions' what are you providing a definition of – IPV, PIPV, GBV?

P4: I feel the first paragraph is a 'shot-gun' of facts – and the authors should be systematic in the grouping of information. I.e., break it into themes and have linking sentences. For example WHO/UN drive, definitions, and measurements. The end of the first paragraph belongs in the methods/sample

P4: As with the previous comment this paragraph needs restructuring. My suggestion:

Alcohol consumption reduces self control and affects cognitive and physical functioning which reduces the ability of an individual to negotiate non-violent conflict resolution[12]. Alcohol consumption has been found to increase the occurrence and severity of domestic violence [10]. In addition, alcohol consumption by partners may cause financial problems, aggressive behavior, childcare problems and other related problems which can lead to violence against women [13-15]. A study in the USA found that 30 to 40% of the men and 27 to 34% of the women who perpetrated violence against their partners were taking alcohol at the time of the event [16]. A multi-country study in Chile, India, Egypt and the Philippines identified regular alcohol consumption by the partner as a risk factor for any life time PIPV against women across the four countries[11].

P5 L1. You paper is not about Women-to-men IPV and as such it is not necessary to raise in the introduction or throughout (as you do).
P5 p1 l7: You say ‘define drinking’ as gotten drunk. This needs a definition to what is ‘gotten drunk’ – even if you say it is subjective.

P5 p2 l2: you say ‘harmful or hazardous levels’ provide a measurement of this 5 standard drinks, 20??

P5 p3 l3: single is not a marital status? (never married, married etc)

P6 p1: I feel this paragraph is not appropriate for the focus of this paper.

P7 p1 l6: what is the time period of PIPV (12 months?)

Methods: I think you over emphasis to much ‘weighting/weighted data’. Simply state that your analyses is based on weighted results (unless otherwise specified).

The UDHS response rate is amazing! However, after reading the UDHS report your response rate of women (in scope) is 95% not 98%.

Measures: this is where all the ‘definitions’ mentioned in the intro should be – relative to your study.

Analysis strategy: this is appropriate but too detailed.

P9 p2 l16: please inform the reader why you choose a .1 criteria?

What statistical package did you use?

P11 p1 l8: I disagree with your interpretation of PIPV trends in age: looking at the percentage it goes up from young to middle aged then down – the trend would still be significant (but marginally).

P11 p2 l3: it is inappropriate to compare the two percentages – they may be related but this was not a subgroup summary. You do this again at the beginning of the discussion.

P13 p1 l13: Please provide a justification of why you look at ‘often drunk’ and ‘sometimes drunk’ – what is the purpose of this.

P14 p1 l2: remove the discussion about women-to-men IPV it is not a focus of this paper.

P14 p2 l18: you provide a policy measure ‘drinking to intoxication’ but I am guess much of the drinking by these men is ‘private’ so how would this policy be enforced.

P19 t1: I would suggest the counts column of ‘drunkenness’ be moved in front of the ‘partner gets drunk’ frequency column.

P24 f1: the y-axis heading needs PIPV