Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 1 May 2012

Reviewer: Jason Ferris

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Author
I am impressed with the tenacity of the authors to push this paper forward and applaud your actions. I support the publication of this paper.

After reviewing I have a couple of comments the authors can choose to incorporate but note that this should not postpone publication.

Introduction:
Discretionary… P(Paragraph) 1: At the end of the introduction you note “alcohol use is a major contributor to the occurrence of IPV”. You will get a number of comments (from the alcohol industry mainly) noting that there is no ‘cause/effect’ link between drinking alcohol and violence (the tone of your statement). You could use the expression ‘associated with’.

Discretionary… P3: I wonder with all the evidence around PIPV and alcohol that you could recommend in the discussion the need for a cochrane review; meta-analysis!

Minor Essential… P4: You mention ‘problem drinking’ but this is without definition in intro.

Results:
Minor Essential… P1. Mention results are drawn from table 1.

Discretionary… P3: “56% of the women reported that their partner drank alcohol. You could move this to the beginning of the next subsection – and reverse ‘drunkenness’ and PIPV in the title.

Discretionary… P3: For me! Can you explain the process you used to calculate what you refer to as Ptrend. Ptrend with survey data is not directly calculable?

Minor Essential… P7: “The model fitted well with a p-value of 0.72” what type statistic was this measured against? Adjusted F-test?

Discussion:
Discretionary… P4: Policy to regulate drinking hours and selling to intoxicated … in principal this is a nice idea but there is evidence to show world wide this is
hard to do. Would it be different in Uganda?

Recommendation:
Discretionary… P1: Campaigns against PIPV… is there any supporting evidence that this recommended campaigns work? Or would work in Uganda?

Limitation:
Discretionary… I suggest moving this before ‘conclusion’.

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