Reviewer's report

Title: Relationships between Sexual Violence and Chronic Disease: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Olufunmilayo Fawole

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Relationships between Sexual Violence and Chronic Disease: A Cross Sectional Study

Thank you for asking me to review the above named manuscript. The purpose of the study was to identify associations between sexual violence and health risk behaviours, chronic health conditions and mental health conditions.

Secondary data analysis of the 2011 Kansas Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System sexual violence module was done. A total of 8160 respondents were analysed.

Approximately 9% had experienced sexual assault. The study adds to the body of knowledge on the health implications of sexual violence and highlights the need for policies and practices related to chronic disease prevention, as well as collaborations between sexual violence and chronic disease/health risk behavior programmes.

The following comments/corrections are suggested to improve the quality of the work.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract- Please state in the methods that this is a secondary data analysis of 2011 Kansas BRFSS. Also state the total number of respondent’s data analysed. Results should specify the “certain” health risk behavior that was significant.

2. Background - Avoid use of i.e., rather change into words and write as full sentences. Edit i.e. on pages 5 and 6. Page 6 line3 144 should not be a new paragraph it’s a continuation of Line 12.

3. Methods – The abbreviation BRFSS has been introduced earlier, don’t reintroduce as done on Line 16 of Page 7. How was the mental health problems/terms (Page 9, lines 18-20) described to the respondents, they are medical as currently written. On page 10, first paragraph (lines 2-11) the word condition appears 9 times. Please edit.

4. Discussion - Page 12 second paragraph reads like a Result and not Discussion section. Page 15 Line 20 should read sexual assault management or care. On Line 22 specify or recommend proactive and preventive measures to be
taken.

5. Others – Page 16, Line 23 should be changed from provide to provided

Page 19, what does GED stated under education in Table 1 mean?

Page 20, Table 2, state the n (total number of respondents) of those who experienced and did not experience sexual assault at the top of the table. No P values are stated to Table 2. HIV risk factor comprised of 4 factors, so how was the prevalence computed? Why was the additional adjustment done only for health risk behavior, why not for Chronic conditions?

Yours Sincerely,
Olufunmilayo I. Fawole