Reviewer’s report

Title:Risk factors by gender for violence victimization among Swedish youths: a cross-sectional study

Version:2 Date:18 January 2014

Reviewer:Shervin Assari

Reviewer’s report:

There are several minor issues, in addition to a few major problems. One of the major problems is that authors have not cited many relevant works (1) Mohammadkhani, J Sex Med. 2009 Jul;6(7):1938-46. 2) Mohammadkhani, et al., J Sex Med. 2009). Another major problem is with the analysis. Hierarchical regression could be much more informative than only having 2 models (unadjusted and full). Why all variables have been added to the model at the same time? Another major draw back is lack of theory. Finally, a main challenge is considering some behaviors (such as smoking) as risk factors of violence. Do authors believe that individuals are being exposed to violence because (using the word risk factor) they smoke? This is another reason I argue that authors should not have an unadjusted and a full model. We know to know what are ORs associated with other factors when smoking (just as an example) is not controlled.

A few examples of the minor problems with the paper:

1- The first sentence says "Youth violence is recognized as a significant public health problem". Youth violence is mostly about youth perpetrator, but this paper is about victimization.

2- Paper title is on gender difference. The conclusion of the abstract is not on gender differences.

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:

none