Reviewer's report

Title: Factors influencing identification of and response to intimate partner violence: a survey of physicians and nurses

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2006

Reviewer: Zink Therese

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The following suggestions may make it stronger:

Questionnaire design:
1. It would be nice to include the practice scenario—perhaps in the appendix
2. What were the open ended questions—please include

Data analysis seems appropriate

Discussion
Paragraph 2 is an excellent addition to this discussion
Open ended questions: It would be interesting to know more about the responses. Probably no space in this article. But perhaps qualitative analysis for another manuscript.
Good discussion of limitations
3. You might want to call attention to the fact that the personal experience is almost half of both groups. That may be the result of those interested enough to fill out the survey, but it also points out the prevalence of this issue.
4. However, I think the discussion and recommendations fall short: Given the limited attention to IPV in the curriculum, ref 22 and the expectation of patients/victims that providers understand IPV ref 32 and 60% of respondents not having had any education, you may want to include the importance of addressing the educational needs on a larger scale. Based on your finding the curriculum should be more than a lecture but needs to address the issue of preparedness that you identify—having talked with abused women. This suggests formats that might include partnering w/ advocacy agencies to create learning opportunities to fill this deficit. It is time to integrate IPV into health care curriculum and continuing medical and nursing education as part of the mainstream. Calling for more research is inadequate at this point. There has already been a lot of research on provider screening rates and inadequacies.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'