Reviewer's report

Title: Child sexual abuse in southern Brazil and associated factors: a population-based study

Version: 3 Date: 2 April 2009

Reviewer: Michael P Dunne

Reviewer's report:

This is much improved. The authors have responded to my comments on the earlier version. The Abstract, Methods, Results and Discussion are now fine, though I suggest a few minor alterations to the Introduction.

p4, para 1, line 5: Non-representative sampling can also produce over-estimation...under-estimation is more likely only for some types of samples. For example, clinic-based samples or out-of-school youth only or youth in detention would over-estimate the true prevalence of abuse. Clarify this point.

p4, para 1, final sentence: No, your study does not "avoid these issues" (listed in the previous sentence including definitions, measurement tools and population studied. Your study shares the same constraints as all others that arise from decisions about definitions, tools etc. The main strength of your study is that the sample is representative. The other methodological issues are definitely NOT "avoided" by your design or method (as indeed, you acknowledge in the Discussion)

p4, para 2:lines 8-10: remove the sentence commencing "Therefore, an accurate...". This point is too obvious and the sentence is unnecessary. Also, in the following sentence, delete "multivariate" (which is mainly a statistical term) and replace with "various"

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests