Author's response to reviews

Title: Intimate partner violence and mental health in Bolivia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reply to reviewer Herrman:

Minor Essential Revisions

- The reviewer correctly pointed out that in a few instances, the wording used suggested causality, which we cannot prove with this cross-sectional study.

Reply: We agreed with the reviewer’s comments and made corrections, as suggested.

Discretionary Revisions

- The reviewer suggested to add a sentence to the discussion to indicate that childhood abuse may also be associated with depression.

Reply: We considered this but opted not to do this, in part because it is not the focus of the study and in part because the effects of childhood abuse are not consistent.

Reply to reviewer Lipsky:

Minor Essential Revisions

- The reviewer found that the results section was a bit too long and suggested summarizing the results a bit more.

Reply: We edited the results section text, to make it more succinct, but did not think it was possible to make cut substantial cuts without omitting important information. However, to add clarity for the reader, with added sub-headings.

- The reviewer suggested change the labeling of the columns in the tables (moving the information from the “notes” to the column headings).

Reply: We made the suggested changes to the column headers in Tables 2 and 3.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The reviewer correctly pointed out that we failed to include comparisons to other studies in the discussion section.
• Reply: We included comparisons with other studies in paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 of the discussion section, and expanded the bibliography accordingly.