Reviewer's report

Title: Domestic violence and mental health in Bolivia

Version: 2 Date: 27 October 2012

Reviewer: Sherry Lipsky

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Intro: Although worldwide prevalences are important to note, specific comparisons with Latin America and/or Bolivia would be even more important to include…this is not done in the paragraph on emotional abuse.

2. References lacking in last paragraph, pg 2, regarding machismo

3. Please separate data/population from methods and measures from data analysis. Measures section is very long – needs to be more succinct with perhaps lists instead of run on text

4. What were the DV questions based on? Sounds like a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scales.

5. Data Analysis: Why use probit regression when logistic regression is the more standard regression technique for cross-sectional data. The analysis should focus on the association of partner violence with mental health outcomes. The data on the relationship between the control variables and the mental health variables are irrelevant. Were all the control variables used in each analysis or did the authors use some form of model building? Finally, why report on each symptom? Would be more relevant (and succinct) to combine symptoms for each major ‘outcome’ category (depression, anxiety, etc).

6. Results/Tables: Do not make sense…need better labeling of columns; what is being compared? Should also include standard errors or CIs. Also, table headings say odds but table reports percentages. The accompanying text is also difficult to follow.

7. Discussion: first paragraph repetitive of intro. Should begin with key findings and then compare to other studies where applicable. Conclusions should be more specific.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract and elsewhere—the data are cross-sectional…cannot assume the “effect of violence on mental health”.

2. Conclusions: Abstract and text—DV programs do not treat injuries, they provide services. What programs in developing countries “should screen patients…”

3. Intro: “…said to have” is not appropriate when citing studies. Please use
‘studies have found’ or demonstrated’ as an example.

4. There are many different types of victims (children, elders, partners, etc) included in the term domestic violence. Please be specific throughout the manuscript who you are referring to (i.e. spouses, intimate partners…)

5. Last para of intro belongs in methods section and is repeated at end of pg 3 as well.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests.