Reviewer's report

Title: Sexual assault in Lagos, Nigeria: a five year retrospective review.

Version: 1 Date: 26 June 2014

Reviewer: Olufunmilayo Fawole

Reviewer’s report:

Sexual assault in Lagos, Nigeria: a five year retrospective review

Thank you for asking me to review the above named manuscript. The study assessed survivors’ characteristics, circumstances of assault and treatment offered with a view to reducing overall incidence of sexual assault as well as improving evaluation and management.

A retrospective review of 287 survivors’ case records at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, was done between January 2008 and December 2012.

The incidence of sexual assault was 0.76%. The study adds to the body of knowledge on adolescent’s vulnerability to sexual assault and highlights the need for public enlightenment on the benefits of early interventions and comprehensive care of survivors with the use of standardized protocols.

The following comments/ corrections are suggested to improve the quality of the work.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract- Delete ‘more especially so the Lagos State Teaching Hospital’ in the first paragraph. It comes up in the Methods section. Also delete “overall” in the last sentence of 1st paragraph.

2. Introduction – There is the need to cite references to the following :-
   Page 3 last line
   Page 4, 2nd paragraph. True incidences are ..................
   Page 4, last line
   Page 5, 1st paragraph. Lagos like other cities.........

3. Methods - Please provide more information on the LASUTH, number of beds, staff strength etc . Hospital protocol or guidelines for managing sexual assault cases should come in here.

   Insert reference in last line of the subtitle “Setting”

   How were the cases identified? What was the case definition of sexual assault?

   In the analysis section there is only mention of univariate (descriptive statistics) analysis, no mention of bivariate (inferential) analysis which was actually done.

   Apart from ethical clearance what about confidentiality issues? Mention.
4. Results- Page 7, 3rd paragraph. For the students, where did the rape occur? Home or school?
Page 8, 1st line, don’t start sentence with numbers.
5. Discussion- Page 8 last line, underreporting was to whom? Why? Discuss.
Page 9, 1st paragraph, include reference. Children 10 years and other victims................
Include reference for 1st two lines of page 10.
And page 10, second paragraph. An official report to the police…….
And page 11, 1st two lines put reference. The recommendation is that …….
And page 11, last paragraph of the Discussion
Limitations of the study was not discussed
6. Figures. The figures don’t have titles and figures two should be deleted. It can be simply reported as text since it has only 2 variables.
Yours Sincerely,
Olufunmilayo I. Fawole

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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