Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of intimate partner violence among pregnant women in Rwanda

Version: 2 Date: 18 June 2008

Reviewer: Fariyal F Fikree

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors on the study - as remarked earlier, research on intimate partner violence is uncommon in the developing world. I have a couple of additional remarks:

1. The paper will benefit greatly from an extensive revision with respect to scientific writing style.

2. Please mention (page 4, end of second para) that this paper is based on a sub-set analysis of a larger study.

3. The description of the sample size calculation is still not clear. From my reading of the manuscript, I am not sure what variable the "P" that was used in the sample size formula reflects. Is it the proportion of women using antenatal services, HIV testing (86%) or adherence to the PMTCT program (8.7%). The decision by the study investigators to increase the total sample size to 600 with equal proportion of HIV+ and HIV- pregnant women will have increased the power of the study. However, the authors did not mention what the power of the study sample is?

4. In the response letter, the authors describe the recruiting process but have not included this in the revised text.

5. For the readers who are not familiar with Rwanda it will be helpful if you mention on page 4 (lines 4-5) the location of the antenatal clinics (all urban, or some urban and some rural). How many of the 600 women were from the three sampling sites.

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 declare that I have no competing interests