Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 June 2008

Reviewer: Ann L Coker

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BMC IPV in Rwanda
Second Review

This manuscript has improved somewhat but the same review points remain. My comments are essentially the same as the first review.

1. The issue regarding the study design is not resolved in this revision. If you sampled such that half the population was HIV+ then you must have been interested in HIV status as research question. I would state that you have a case control study and your primary research question is “Are women who are HIV+ more likely to have a history of partner violence?” Currently the manuscript lacks focus. Directly stating an hypothesis would better shape the manuscript.

2. Add response rates. What proportion of women refused participation?

3. Include the measures of partner violence used and reference these.

4. Decide on terms. Either use intimate partner violence or domestic violence; do not both interchangeably. I still found examples of partner and domestic violence in this version.

5. Results should be presented to address the primary research question. If it is HIV and partner violence then rates of IPV should be presented by HIV status.

6. There is no discussion in the methods of what variables are included in models to result in adjusted ORs. How did you decide that factors were or were not confounders? Those variables included in multivariate models need to be listed in Table 2.

7. I still think a conceptual model would help the author and reader focus on the analysis and important of this work.

Finally, the discussion must include specific ways in which these study findings may affect prenatal care in Rwanda. What are the implications of the high prevalence of IPV during pregnancy? We know that both IPV and HIV have significant implications for maternal and infant health. This needs to be discussed. While calling for universal screening may address IPV in the long term, are there services to address IPV in Rwanda. Further, are there efforts to prevent IPV? What might these be? How might prenatal care providers use the data in this report?
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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