Reviewer's report

Title: A Grounded Theory of Female Adolescents Dating Experiences and Factors Influencing Safety: The Dynamics of the Circle

Version: 3 Date: 21 July 2007

Reviewer: Diann M. Ackard

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have undertaken a significant and meaningful review of the manuscript and it is significantly improved, a joy to read, and a significant and novel contribution to the literature. My remaining comments are minor and predominantly editorial in nature.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
No major compulsory revisions.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 4, first paragraph, second sentence, change grammar on "increase". "... an increased incidence..."
Page 4, third paragraph, second sentence, clarify. "...50% report continuing in the relationship EVEN AFTER DATING VIOLENCE HAS OCCURRED."
Page 5, second sentence at top is incomplete. Perhaps you wanted to write: "THIS SUGGESTS THAT teens..."
Page 5, first paragraph, third sentence, clarify. "...may not define violent acts INVOLVING THEMSELVES as abuse..."
Page 5, second paragraph, second sentence, clarify. The sentence as written now implies to me that ALL who report violence also report staying in the violent relationships. Yet your study cites research that does not imply ALL. Perhaps adding a modifying word (such as "many" or "a concerning proportion") would make this more clear, and most importantly, more accurate.
Page 6, first full sentence at top, drop "s" in exists to parallel the plural.
Page 7, first paragraph, fourth sentence, clarify heterogeneity with respect to income level and social class. First, I'm not confident that heterogeneity is established with two categories in which one holds 17 participants and the other holds 3. Second, it may be a leap to assert that income level and social class are reflected in whether one's health insurance is private or public. I'd recommend
that you choose your words very carefully in this sentence and pull dramatically away from conjecture and assumptions.

Page 7, first paragraph, ninth sentence. "During this stage fliers were distributed FOR PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT."

Page 27, conclusion, last 2 sentences, typo. You are missing a period between the last 2 sentences.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.