Reviewer’s report

Title: Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Maputo City, Mozambique

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Reviewer: Rob Stephenson

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Reviewer’s Comments

This article examines IPV among women in Maputo, Mozambique. While the paper is interesting, and clearly written, I have the following concerns:

1. The paper begins with a review of IPV statistics in sub-Saharan Africa. While the statistics are accurate, it would be useful for the paper to begin by addressing the variations in the definitions of IPV. The range in prevalence statistics likely also reflects variations in definitions. It is important to establish upfront how the authors are conceptualizing IPV.

2. The background and introduction sections are incredibly repetitive: the paper makes multiple claims that there is a lack of data on IPV among women in sub-Saharan Africa, and in particular in Mozambique, yet still manages to present several prevalence estimates. It is never made clear what the exact purpose of the paper is: if the purpose is just to establish the prevalence of IPV in Mozambique and examine associations with standard social and demographic factors, then this does not seem especially innovative and unlikely to add to the literature (and could this be done easily with the DHS?).

3. The authors make the claim that variations in prevalence estimates may be due to variations in IPV definitions (which is true) – but how can they be sure that their definition is correct? Has the CTS been adapted for Mozambique – to what extent is it culturally valid?

4. The results section is long and unwieldy. It is often repetitive: the authors need to do a better job of simplifying the results, and in drawing better comparisons between factors associated with each of the outcomes.

5. There is no conceptual model or theory telling us why these variables should be significantly associated with the outcomes.

6. The major problem with this paper is the sample. The sample is women who have contacted Forensic Services for their IPV experiences, so of course there is going to be a high prevalence of IPV among this group. This is only really addressed in one sentence in the limitations: this in fact should be front and center of the paper. The paper needs to be totally reframed and presented of a study of women seeking care for IPV. Also, there is a HUGE selection bias as to what types of women are able to seek care for IPV. These serious limitations negate any sense of generalizability of the results.

7. There are almost no policy or public health recommendations arising from the
research: we need to know, what do we do to solve this problem?

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**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 I have no competing interests.