Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 9 November 2012

Reviewer: Jennifer Leaning

Reviewer's report:

1. Feminist theory
   a. Your comment: This framework conceptualizes that men are chief and women are dominated in physical, political, economic, and in traditional role. Too simplistic! Very early reference, superceded by many.
   b. Authors’ response: The explanation of feminist theory has been appropriately revised as the reviewer requested. This has been now provided as the reviewer requested. (page 5, line 5 in the clean copy) OKAY

2. Discussion of Canada, Russia, and Japan
   a. Your comment: You need to say why suddenly introduce Canada and Russia in this discussion; where up to this point you have been scrupulous about using data and studies from SSA. Why not use US or UK data-which are also robust? This reference to a Japanese convenience sample study really dilutes the impact of your discussion. Clearly there is little information that can usefully be applied from a report so distant in terms of culture and so apparently unrepresentative of even its own population.
   b. Authors’ response: We compared our results on the frequency of violence with those of others such as Canada and Russia, so as to appreciate differences and similarities. The Japanese study is one of the few studies with very high rates of co-occurring IPV, as studies in Africa have not shown nearly so high rates. In addition, the study also shows similar pattern of co-occurring violence. OKAY BUT THERE ARE GOOD UNITED STATES DATA ON IPV WHICH COULD BE PERSUASIVE. AUTHORS SHOULD DO LIT SEARCH ON "BATTERED MEN" AND FIND STUDIES SUPPORTING THEIR MAPUTO FINDINGS.

3. Prevalence in Mozambique of alcohol and cigarette use
   a. Your comment: What is known about general prevalence in Maputo, or Mozambique more generally, about alcohol and cigarette use; and how do these subjects differ from general population in percentage of kinds of work, salary, housing, children at home, etc.
   b. Authors’ response: There are really no accurate and current figures on the general prevalence of alcohol and cigarette use in Maputo, or Mozambique. As such, we are not able to comment on similarities or differences in the percentage of kinds of work, salary, housing, children at home, etc. SO IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS DATA PROBLEM AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU CANNOT PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION—IN THE TEXT.
THEN THE READER WILL REALIZE YOU HAVE TRIED AND THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM.

General comments:

1. Ascertainment bias – You raised this concern at several points, and I think the authors have done a good job of discussing ascertainment bias throughout the manuscript. OKAY

2. Questionnaire – You asked about the validation of the questionnaire, which the authors addressed in the point-by-point; I will ask them to include this information in the manuscript. OKAY

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.