Reviewer’s report

Title: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its predictors in Emergency Medical Service personnel: A cross-sectional study from Karachi, Pakistan

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Sam Mullinax

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for addressing our concerns so thoroughly. Regarding the points that we discussed previously is that in the second paragraph of the background you say that rescue workers overall suffer from PTSD at a rate of 17.9%, whereas ambulance workers suffer from it at 14.6%. Then in the discussion you cite the same reference saying that emergency services personnel are more negatively affected by stress. I understand why you have made such comparisons because the background literature has mostly looked at EMS along with other rescue workers, but try to be more consistent in presenting it to the reader. Regardless, the population you are studying is in need of more work like yours.

The biggest issue I can see at this point is the clarity of the writing. I will provide some specific examples from the background section but the entire paper will need to be similarly revised:

On lines 56 and 57 you say "...such as medical emergencies, severe injuries, acts of violence, organizational problems, etc., in their day to day functioning."

"Such as" indicates that you will give a list of examples, but the aforementioned list is not necessarily exhaustive. Adding "etc." at the end is not necessary. And "day to day functioning" sounds superfluous and vague because it does not emphasize that the stressors they face occur primarily during the course of their work day. It could even be left out entirely.

On line 59 you describe burnout and PTSD as "stress reactions". I am not an expert not this subject but I have typically associated stress reactions with more acute symptoms following stressful situations and a disorder like PTSD as something more severe that develops later.

On line 60 you say "These stressors have the potential to effect emotional, social, behavioral, and cognitive functioning of an individual." "Affect" is the verb you will likely want to use here. "Of an individual" is probably superfluous in this sentence as well.

On line 63 a word like "reflects", "indicates" or "shows" would probably work better than "presents", which suggests that the data is actively conveying information as opposed to being analyzed or interpreted.

In particular, be sure to pay attention to grammatical tense and number throughout the manuscript.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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