Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and predictors of unintended pregnancy among women: an analysis of the Canadian Maternity Experiences Survey

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Reviewer: Kathleen Marion Baird

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Title: Prevalence and predictors of unintended pregnancy among women: an analysis of the Canadian Maternity Survey

Journal: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Type of article: Research article

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide feedback on this paper.

The insights this research paper offers have clear clinical application for midwifery practice and for exploring the discourse around the prevalence of unintended pregnancy. The study provides a useful empirical contribution to the midwifery and obstetric literature. This contribution is particularly relevant to the main groups, which have been identified as at a higher risk of experiencing an unintended pregnancy i.e. less than 20 years of age, living with intimate partner violence and women who are not native to Canada. However, the data from which these outcomes have emerged is now nearly 10 years old and therefore I am unclear if the authors have tried to find any more up to date Canadian Statistics. At the very least it would be helpful if the authors could provide an explanation as to why they are using data which is now quite old and whether is it is robust enough. For instance has the Canadian Maternity Experiences Survey been repeated again since 2006? I think including such a statement would be beneficial.

One very important is a consideration around the difference between an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy and an unplanned and but wanted pregnancy, some discussion around this point would be beneficial. The authors should make some acknowledgement to this.

The research topic is very important in terms of the effects and outcomes of family violence.

Abstract clear

The research is original and easily identifiable and understood.

The design and methods of the study is well defined. The methods chosen a cross sectional study is an appropriate design of the study in view of the secondary data analysis. The findings of the study add to the literature in already available concerning unintended pregnancy.
Introduction

Page 2 Line 8 - 10 Authors made a very broad sweeping statement in their opening sentence - what exactly are the 'dangerous consequences' both to mother and to her newborn, this requires much more explanation. Perhaps a better use of terms to utilise would be 'adverse outcomes'.

Line 25 consider another term instead of 'needs to be done' consider more research is 'required' or 'carried out' Line 37 this line is slightly confusing - I think it is confusion is related to the syntax in the sentence '27% of Canadian mothers perceived their pregnancy as unintended, meaning that they wanted the pregnancy later or not at all.' Consider changing to '27% of Canadian mothers perceived their pregnancy to be as unintended, meaning that they would have preferred the pregnancy to be later or even not at all'.

Page 3 Line 41 please include the array of studies that the authors allude too. Line 44 - 47 would be included in the conclusion. Line 48 consider changing term ' looking at' consider using examine or explore Page 3 - 4

Methods

Very good response rate 75.2%, statistical data analysis and findings from the statistical data appear robust - however, please note I am not an statistical expert and this section may benefit from further review.

Findings

Overall the findings and results are presented in an unbiased manner with a clear discussion to support findings. Conclusions are valid and result directly from the data.

The manuscript is well organised and logical however there are few instances where the syntax can be improved. The authors do repeat the findings in the discussion chapter.

Discussion

The first paragraph from line 35 is a repeat of the findings chapter and the authors should consider revising this paragraph.

Page 7 line 5 'suggesting that this data may be out-dated' should be included as a limitation. There should be a deeper explanation about the outcome of the connection between unintended pregnancy and intimate partner violence, in relationship to control and the lack of agency a woman may have over the use of contraception. This could be a important factor in unintended pregnancy.

Table is suitable and is well organised In the main this paper is well written and worthy of publication, however, I do have concerns about the age of the data e.g. > 9 years.