Reviewer's report

Title: Individual and contextual factors associated with verbal bullying among Brazilian adolescents

Version: 1 Date: 30 January 2015

Reviewer: Erin Kelly

Reviewer's report:

This paper examined individual and contextual factors associated with verbal bullying among a large representative sample of Brazilian adolescents. It features a sound study design, interesting findings and a clear discussion of the implications. In addition, it examines an important question within a currently under-researched area, low to middle income countries.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Nil

Minor Essential Revisions:
Page 4, line 70 - add % sign
Page 4, line 85 - add supporting references
Page 5, line 107 - change ‘have’ to ‘has’
Page 6, line 122 - add 'years' after 10-19, remove brackets from 'around 84%' and rephrase
Page 11, line 239 - add 'a' after being

Discussion
- add a sentence that overall the individual factors were consistent with the literature
- in addition to the limitations of the verbal bullying measure already discussed, it should also be noted that other forms of bullying were not measured and there may be different associations for different types of bullying (e.g. physical bullying may be more associated with violence
- the findings regarding domestic violence were of great interest and importance and deserve more discussion e.g. implications for intervention

Discretionary Revisions:
- do the findings that individual level factors were much more important than school or city level factors have any implications for the current bullying interventions in Brazil? For instance, are the interventions currently school-level interventions or do they focus on the key factors identified? How could current interventions be improved in light of these findings?
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