Reviewer's report

Title: Resilience to trauma in the two largest cities of Brazil: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Isaac Galatzer-Levy

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Review of Resilience to trauma in the two largest cities of Brazil – a cross-sectional study

I have now read the manuscript. I have a number of comments and concerns. I will address them in order of the manuscript rather than order of importance.

Please number your comments and divide them into

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Definition of Resilience as the absence of any psychopathology is not an accurate definition of resilience. This is akin to saying health is the absence of cancer. Resilience is commonly defined as little to no symptomatology or disruption in psychological functioning (see Bonanno’s work). An individual could be quite symptomatic and not meet diagnostic criteria. This is not a petty point given the evidence that so called sub-syndromal PTSD often causes equal impairment to full PTSD.

2. When were these people exposed to a potentially traumatic event? This isn’t apparent but if it was some time before the study it is difficult to conclude that individuals are resilient as that could have developed pathology and recovered. Longitudinal studies have shown that recovery is very different from resilience and has different predictors.

3. The findings that resilient individuals were lower of NA is not very new or surprising. The idea that PA buffers the effects of NA is also not that new and has been demonstrated more robustly with longitudinal data in the past.

Based on these issues with methodology and the impact of the findings, I would say that the current study is quite limited in what it adds to a literature that has explored these questions quite a bit.

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