Reviewer’s report

Title: VIOLENCE AND DEPRESSION AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN TANZANIA

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2016

Reviewer: Sheryl McCurdy

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read this interesting study. It makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the association between violence, HIV-risk behaviors, and depression among MSM in Tanzania. With minor revisions it will be ready for publication.

First, the abstract needs to be updated to reflect the association between violence and depression found in Table Three and discussed on the third paragraph of p. 7.

Some of the citations in the paper need to be corrected and others reformatted. For example, the article cited as "Anderson and Ross" is actually "Anderson, et al." On page 4, the Ahaneku et al. article is from the same study and database as the Anderson, et al. article referred to on page 3, so this is not 'another' study in Tanzania, it's actually just another article from that same study.

On page 7, the authors note that sexual partners and friends were the most frequent perpetrators of violence, but it is not clear if this is emotional, physical or sexual violence. Could you please clarify who perpetrates each kind of violence?

The final paragraph on p. 7 is repetitious. Please delete the last sentence.

At the end of p. 7 add a paragraph with the findings noted in the abstract about violence and HIV risk behaviors for both multipartners and trading sex. Add a section in the discussion that addresses these findings.

It would also be nice to see some findings from the RDS recruitment and social networks in the manuscript.

In the discussion on p.8, Pantalone, et al. and Buller, et al. are mentioned for the first time. These and any others in the discussion must be introduced and discussed in the introduction or literature review before they are brought up in this section.
On p.9, another reason that your rates of depression could be high is related to RDS recruitment. Perhaps the network sampled is from a particular neighborhood or faction of the MSM community that experiences higher rates of violence and depression.

On p. 9, Could you please note, for those not from this sub-specialty, what exactly minimal to mild depression is? What can be done to treat it? Please find another way to note the high rate of depressive symptoms without using the same phrase each time.

On p. 11, when you say studies are needed to identify 'the community's' KAP towards MSM, in this setting, please clarify what you mean by community. Do you mean non-MSM Tanzanian's living in Dar es Salaam? Do you mean social workers and health care providers that could provide counseling to MSM? Do you mean stakeholders like employers, the police, and landlords who perpetrate some of the violence?

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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