Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial stressors contributing to emergency psychiatric service utilization in a sample of ethno-culturally diverse clients with psychosis in Toronto.

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Gerald Jordan

Reviewer’s report:

The purpose of this work was to examine the role of stressors and ethnicity in service use for people experiencing psychosis in Toronto. The authors conducted a very extensive chart review of almost 1000 clients. There is a lack of knowledge concerning stressors leading to service use among people with psychosis in general, and even less is known about how ethnicity factors into this, particularly within Canada. This paper is especially important as it adds weight to claims that social stressors, in addition to genetics and biology, are important to human suffering. Hence, despite the limitations of the chart review method—which the authors acknowledge—this paper fills an important knowledge gap and can help researchers plan future studies exploring this area. I recommend this work for publication.

Introduction

Please remove the comma in the first sentence of the introduction.

Page 4, line 33, replace 6 with "six"

Methods

Replace 6 with six on page 4, line 60.

On page 5 and 6, the authors should report the categories examined in sentence-style, instead of in point form, vertically down the page.

When scoring the severity of psychosis, did the authors rate each item from 1 to 14 (to reflect severity), or did they rate the presence or absence of each category (e.g., hallucinations, ideas of reference)? It seems easier to rate the presence of each one rather than severity if the authors were only relying on charts—unless severity was captured within the charts in a systematic way. Also, how many researchers reviewed the charts? It seems like 2 were involved in reviewing the number of stressors, but what about the rest of the charts?

Results
Can the authors clarify how much data was available vs missing, and if any procedures were done to compensate for missing data?

The authors should reference the tables in the results section in every paragraph that is linked to the table.

Can the authors provide a breakdown of diagnoses? Only schizophrenia is mentioned.

When listing percentages reflecting psychosocial stressors, can the authors also include the numbers?

**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:

Acceptable

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