Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors for homicide victimization in post-genocide Rwanda: a population-based case-control study.

Version: 2
Date: 19 February 2015
Reviewer: Martin Andresen

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting paper that investigates an important topic. What I find particularly interesting is that the authors find that the risk factors associated with homicide in Rwanda are not too dissimilar to those found in more conventional homicide research conducted on populations in the developed world. I, therefore, think it would be instructive for the authors to include some more reference to this work. This in no way reduces the importance of what has been undertaken here. Rather, highlighting the similarities and differences is instructive to a better understanding of this phenomenon and, more importantly, for its prevention.

With regard to the statistical methodology, I too use a general to specific method of final model selection, but with one added step that these authors may find useful. In addition to the individual tests for significance when moving towards the final model I also undertake joint significance tests of removed variables to ensure that I am not removing variables that actually matter but are just collinear with other (combinations of) variables.

Lastly, though odds-ratios are instructive I find them limiting in and of themselves. I strongly urge the authors to calculate marginal effects as well that considers the baseline probability of the event in question. There are a number of ways this can be done.

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.