Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 31 May 2015

Reviewer: Rachel Jewkes

Reviewer’s report:

Homicide in Rwanda

This paper has been strengthened but it would benefit from further information being provided and some further corrections.

1. Definitions: what is a male intimate partner – are these all women or were some men? If so how many?

2. Definitions: how was physical/sexual violence defined and ascertained? Was this only from an intimate partner (of the opposite sex)?

3. I am very worried about the variable related to belonging to a religion. The effect size here is so large that I would consider it likely to be a result of controls selection bias, in which case it should not be in the models. I am concerned that it would be much easier to identify people in a neighbouring village for control selection who were better socially networked in the village and being a member of a religion would be an indicator of better social networking. I am also very worried when I see anything written about Africa which has people listed as ‘not’ members of a religion as religiosity is almost universal on the Continent when adhering to traditional religious beliefs is included in the definition of religions. It is not correct to exclude these when considering religion. I wonder if this variable has been correctly measured and whether it should actually be used

4. The removal of the religion variable would solve the problem of the variable being presented for men and women separately in table 3 – how has this analysis been done? It says it is stratified by gender but actually the findings are not presented as a stratified analysis. If it has been done so please present both models

5. Table 1 should be presented by gender and then for both genders together

6. Table 3 – is this analysis age adjusted? It should be as parental death is age related

7. Pooling intimate partner AND first degree family relative at times and at other times separating them is confusing. There is considerable interest in intimate partner homicide and so please present the data for these separate from ‘first degree family relative’. The discussion should then compare the male and female figures with global proportions (there was a recent systematic review)

8. The alcohol abuse issue has been discussed in South African literature on intimate femicide, I suggest that the authors read the other Mathews and
9. The paper twice says that the risk factors for homicide pertain irrespective of gender. In fact the differences in the proportion of men and women with previous physical and sexual violence is very large and I would be surprised if there were no differences in AOR. We are told in the text that a stratified analysis by gender was performed but the cover letter says it wasn’t – what was done – if stratified please present models for each gender – if not stratified then please examine and discuss interaction effects

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'