Reviewer’s report

Title: Describing associations between child maltreatment frequency and the frequency and timing of subsequent delinquent or criminal behaviors across development: Variation by sex, sexual orientation, and race

Version: 2 Date: 05 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Joshua Mersky

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript is an improvement over the previous version. I have only a few more pieces of feedback. First, to put the issue of self-report vs. administrative data to bed, the authors' arguments would be strengthened in the following ways. First, provide supporting evidence for the claim on p. 13 that adolescent self-reports of both maltreatment and delinquency are valid (higher prevalence should not be confused with validity). There are plenty of studies that suggest self-report data are valid, and I simply want to challenge the authors to support their arguments with evidence rather than personal belief. Second, I recommend omitting the speculative language about how the AddHealth surveys invoked confidence and safety in the respondents. Third, given the authors' convictions about self-report data, they may wish to revise the first two paragraphs of the Background section so that the supporting evidence is drawn from analyses of self-report data. The research cited in these paragraphs relied on administrative records, which the authors' regard as methodologically inferior.

Overall, the writing itself could be sharper, more concise, and less conversational—especially in the Discussion section. On a minor note, the term "boys will be boys" is still used on p. 12.

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?
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