Reviewer’s report

Title: Aggressive behavior among drug-using women from Cape Town, South Africa: ethnicity, heavy alcohol use, methamphetamine and intimate partner sexual violence

Version: 0 Date: 22 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Grace Reynolds

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and valuable manuscript. This reviewer, however, finds the presentation of some of the results and discussion of those results confusing and feels it seems to lack a clear direction. Specifically, in the results section of sample demographics, the authors report that younger women are more likely to report all three of the types of interpersonal violence. In the discussion section, the authors say that "surprisingly, age was not associated with aggressive behavior." There is clearly a contradiction between the bivariate and multivariate findings, however, the authors make no attempt to distinguish the different levels of analysis and what the findings might mean. The authors also do not provide much information concerning the women in terms of their living situation and what the "main partner" designation means; is it a live-in partner, husband, sexual partner who does not live with the respondent, etc. It would also help to understand how monthly income was measured; was it for the individual respondent or for the household/family unit, and did the household include the main sexual partner? This manuscript could make a valuable contribution to the literature on women’s perpetration of intimate partner violence, but it ultimately promised more than it delivered. The use of revised CTS-2 is valuable and is an appropriate instrument to use to assess the outcome variables.

Minor grammatical and other edits include: under Research and Sampling Procedure "each communities" should be "each community." In the first paragraph of Discussion the sentence starting on line 57 could be rewritten as "this is a concerning trend as it may increase the risk that violence will be perpetrated against them" rather than "their risk for violence against them..."

Also in the Discussion section, the sentence that begins "Another a major finding ..." should be "Another major finding ..."

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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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