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: 1 Date: 10 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Mekeila Cook

Reviewer's report:

Review of manuscript: BMWH-D-16-00282 entitled, "Aggressive behavior among drug-using women from Cape Town, South Africa: ethnicity, heavy alcohol use, methamphetamine and main partner sexual violence".

This manuscript addresses an under-investigate area of research, aggression perpetration by women in South Africa. I believe this paper has potentially high relevance for contributing to public health practice. The authors were responsive to the reviewers' comments and suggestions. The writing is much improved and the important points raised in the paper are more succinct, especially in the Results and Discussion sections. That said, there are only a couple of suggested revisions.

The data presented in the tables are clear but Table 1 needs to be reviewed for accuracy.

Table 1: Cannabis use under Verbal Aggression states (M, SD) but reports 12.05%.

Table 1: Methamphetamine Use under Physical Aggression reports a Test Statistic of -3.09; is the Test Statistic reported correctly? Also be sure the text and tables reflect the same findings.

Table 1: Heavy Drinking under Verbal Aggression there is no p-value reported.

Table 2: the asterisk for Adjusted Odds Ratio is not defined.

Table 2: Clarification question, does the p-value refer to the Wald Test Statistic or the AOR? If the p-value is that of the AOR, the table would read clearer if the p-value appeared after the confidence interval.

The Discussion section is improved and easy to read. The authors offer strong rationale for their findings for age, heavy drinking, and methamphetamine use. However, little explanation is offered for the findings between aggression and ethnicity. I recognize the authors' attempt to proceed with caution in discussing this association but the Discussion sections appears unbalanced given the explanation of findings provided for the aforementioned factors. One possible solution is for the authors to provide more detail about the findings referenced in this paragraph (Herman et al) and drawing more concrete parallels with the current study's findings.
Minor Edits:

Introduction: be sure to include the year when reporting rates. On page 4, line 20 include the year for "31 per 100,000" rate. Also on page 4, line 22 include the year for "the most recent figures".

On page 5, line 15; change "conducting" to "conducted"

Under data analysis: consider adding "frequency of" intimate partner violence in the past six months…

On page 8, line 43 separate "ofthe" to "of the"

Check punctuation on: page 5, line 16; page 8, line 11; page 11, line 22

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
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