Reviewer’s report

Title: Should community health workers offer support healthcare services to survivors of sexual violence? A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2017

Reviewer: tiara willie

Reviewer’s report:

This study investigated if community health workers would an acceptable and feasible avenue for healthcare services for survivors of sexual violence. This study provides some barriers and facilitators for a community health worker-led services for individuals who experience sexual violence. My specific comments are as follows:

Abstract

1. In the abstract, the first sentence needs to be re-framed to emphasize the relevance of the study. As the authors illustrate in other places in the manuscript, there are multiple reasons why survivors of sexual violence may not seek formal sources after abuse such as healthcare services, but this first sentence gives the slight impression that it's the fault of the survivors.

2. In the methods section, some of the definitions used during the search should be highlighted.

3. The fact that PRISMA guidelines were used, should also be included in the methods section.

4. In the results section, it's not clear why the characteristics of the CHW would matter - this needs to be explicitly stated or can be removed from the abstract.

5. The last sentence in the Conclusions seem to over-reach the data. To avoid over-reaching, the authors should make a suggestion for how their research acts a springboard for future work.

Methods

1. There should be a separate sub-section for Bias. This section would include how publication bias was minimized, if there were multiple articles from the same study, and how language bias was minimized.

2. Line 180-181, The authors stated a framework approach was used. A figure outlining this framework would be useful.
Limitations

1. The Discussion section is well-written, but after reviewing Appendix 1, I think it would be useful for the authors to mention how their search methods for "sexual violence" might have also limited the number of studies included during the abstraction (as opposed to other terms that may constitute sexual violence such as "sexual abuse").

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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