Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in prevalence and correlates of intimate partner violence against women in Zimbabwe, 2005-2015

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Lukas Muntingh

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Trends in prevalence and correlates of intimate partner violence against women in Zimbabwe, 2005-2015

The article provides a useful description of IPV in Zimbabwe, but this is perhaps its greatest limitation. It is descriptive with very limited analysis or an unpacking of the data to explore possible explanations for observed trends. Data from a ten-year period is presented, but the authors do not attempt to use this time frame and assess macro trends in Zimbabwe and whether or not this may have had an impact on the position of women in society and more specifically, IPV. The overall impression left is that the data is presented in isolation and not contextualised. For example, it is known that there is a clear link between IPV and alcohol abuse, and that Zimbabwe ranks high in pure alcohol consumption. Yet this is not explored to see if there are any correlates with IPV. The authors also do not present any substantial information on the legal and policy framework on domestic violence or how the government has responded to recommendations from the UPR and CEDAW. The article can make a very substantial contribution to the body of knowledge if it engages with the context within which IPV happens. The authors are therefore encouraged to look a bit wider than the rather bland statistics.

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?
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Yes
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I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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